



Native Plant of the Year:

Black Gum (or Black Tupelo)

Nyssa sylvatica



Photos courtesy of Bill Hendricks (above and bottom left) and Ann McCulloh (bottom right)

Unique Characteristics

Black gum or black tupelo has been called the most beautiful of the native trees. With its tall straight trunk and scarlet fall foliage this tree is adaptable to wet and dry soils. The juicy fruit of the female tree is a treat for many birds and mammals.

Plant Type:	Tree
Native Range:	Eastern North America
Sun:	Full sun to part shade
Water:	Medium to wet
Soil:	Prefers moist, acidic soil
pH:	4.5 to 6.0
Height:	30 to 50 feet
Spread:	20 to 30 feet
Wildlife:	Black bears, foxes, a variety of birds eat the fruit; provides cavity and nesting sites for a variety of birds and mammals
Hardiness Zones:	3 to 9
Bloom Time:	Greenish-white flowers in May to June
Fall Color:	Purple to bright scarlet
Uses:	Shade tree, street tree; rain garden; tolerates clay soil; re-establishes well in erosion prone areas; well adapted to fire

