

# ***Prunus serotina***

## Black cherry



### **Sources:**

Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum.  
*Featured Species*. For more information visit  
website.

Natural Resources Conservation Service.  
*PLANTS Database*. United States Department  
of Agriculture.

The Rose Family (Rosaceae)

The tree has alternately arranged, oblong to ovate simple leaves; fissured, scaly, thin bark; and is shade intolerant.

**Habitat:** The tree is found in eastern North America, from Nova Scotia to Florida.

**Interesting Facts:** Black cherry seeds that pass through the digestive tract of passerine birds have higher germination rates than undigested seeds.

**Fruit:** The fruit is berry-like fruit; black when ripe; edible to humans and widely used in wines and jellies.

**Flower:** The flower is small and white with 5 petals each; and has numerous flowers found on a stalk.

**Wildlife value:** Many species feed on the fruit of this tree, including birds, opossums, and black bears.