

Nyssa silvatica

Blackgum



Sources:

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

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

The Dogwood Family (Cornaceae)

The tree ranges 60-80 feet tall; has dense foliage; straight trunk; conical crown; and has reddish brown bark with diamond-shaped plates.

Habitat: It prefers well-drained, light-textured soils; well-adapted to fire, but can also tolerate brief flooding; and is found in eastern North America from Ontario to Florida.

Interesting Facts: Blackgum is considered a good ornamental tree because of its straight trunk, favorable shape, and pretty autumn foliage.

Fruit: The fruit is green to brownish purple oval-shaped pods containing one large seed.

Flower: Its flower is small, greenish white found alone or in clusters.

Wildlife value: The fruit is eaten by animals including wood ducks, black bears, foxes, and wild turkeys, as well as many other birds. The seedlings and sprouts are also eaten by deer.