

## **black cherry** [Rosaceae](#) [Prunus](#) *serotina* Ehrh. symbol: PRSE2 **vTree**

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, 2 to 5 inches long, oblong to lance-shaped, finely serrated, very small inconspicuous glands on petiole, dark green and lustrous above, paler below; usually with a dense yellowish-brown, sometimes white pubescence along mid-rib.

**Flower:** Small white flowers in hanging, narrow clusters 4 to 6 inches long, appearing in late spring.

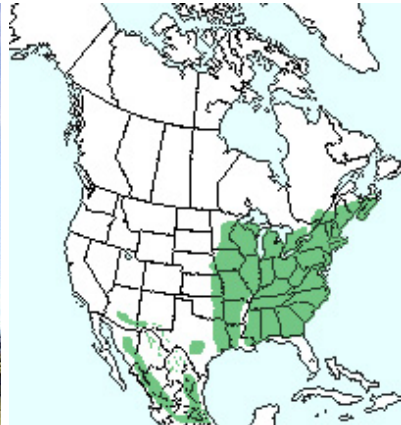
**Fruit:** Dark purple round drupe, almost black when ripe, 1/3 inch in diameter with a bitter-sweet taste; matures in late summer.

**Twig:** Slender, reddish brown, sometimes covered in gray epidermis, pronounced bitter almond odor and taste; buds are very small (1/5 inch), covered in several glossy, reddish brown to greenish scales; leaf scars are small and semicircular with 3 bundle scars.

**Bark:** Smooth with numerous short, narrow, horizontal lenticels when young; becomes very dark (nearly black), breaking up into small, rough, irregular, upturned plates (burnt corn flakes), when older.

**Form:** Medium sized tree which (on good sites) develops a long, straight, clear bole and can reach heights approaching 100 feet.

**Looks like:** [sweet cherry](#) - [American plum](#) - [choke cherry](#) - [fire cherry](#)



**Additional Range Information:**  
*Prunus serotina* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting black cherry.](#)

**External Links:**  
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)  
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)  
[Landowner Factsheet](#)  
[USDA Plants Database](#)  
[Horticulture](#)

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