

# Black Cherry

*Prunus serotina*

-The Black Cherry is an important source of food for wildlife, especially songbirds. Although the Black Cherry does not tolerate high water tables, it is a good tree to plant on or above steep slopes. The Black Cherry is a shade tolerant tree. Furthermore, it can grow to heights of 60 feet and can live for over 200 years.

-Black Cherry flowers in May and June, when the leaves are about half grown. The flowers are wonderful, as are all the flowers of our native Cherries, because of the fact that they belong to the Rose Family.

-One of the greatest attributes of the Black Cherry is its bark. When the tree is young, the bark is a cherry-brown color, and peels enough that some people can get it confused with Paper Birch. However, when the tree becomes older, the bark becomes an incredibly deep dark black, which nobody should confuse with a Paper Birch.



**One generation plants the tree...another gets the shade.**

**-Chinese Proverb**