

Black Chokeberry

Aronia melanocarpa

-The Black Chokeberry is one of the most successfully field-tested shrubs that we have tried at our shoreline restoration sites. It is easily transplanted, easy to grow, and is a very nice shrub to boot. It grows between 2 and 6 feet tall.

-The Black Chokeberry has many wonderful features. One of the cooler features it possesses is its dark green glossy leaves. When you touch them you can tell that they are thicker than that of the average leaf. This is a wonderful water conservation adaptation. What does that mean to you? You don't have to be around to water it all of the time. After you plant this shrub and it is mulched and watered the first year, it pretty much takes care of itself, even in sandy areas.

-The Black Chokeberry has very pretty white flowers in the spring and early summer. The flowers are found in little clumps that seem to cover the entire shrub.

-The Black Chokeberry is characteristic of low wet areas, including flats with high water tables and swamps. They are usually found in acidic soils, so we know that they can tolerate a low pH, but they are versatile enough to plant almost anywhere.

-If you are a bird enthusiast, try planting some Black Chokeberry along with High-bush Cranberry, Juneberry, Snowberry, and Winterberry. Could you imagine that combination? The birds would literally be flocking to your door.

-The dark berries are interesting and the red fall foliage is outstanding. This plant benefits from some protection for deer until it is well established.

-The Black Chokeberry is about the perfect size for most shoreline restoration projects. At maturity it will only reach the height of approximately 5 feet. Five feet is a nice size for a shrub; it is tall enough to provide shelter and privacy, but short enough to not become "overbearing" in the landscape.

