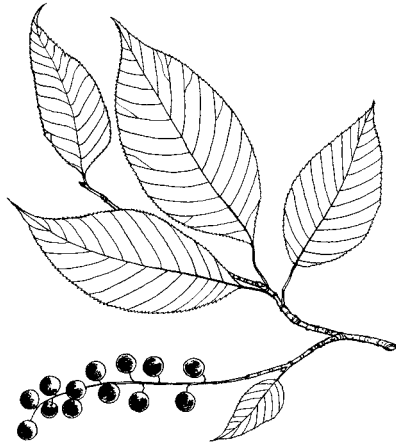


BLACK CHERRY

Prunus serotina Ehrh.

Black cherry is widely distributed throughout the state and is one of our most valuable timber trees, although not abundant in sufficient size. It grows on a variety of soils, but makes rapid and best growth on rich, moist land. It has a narrow head, small horizontal branches, and attains a height of 40-50 feet and a diameter of 10-20 inches.

The **bark** on the trunk is red-brown to black and rather shiny with prominent white lenticels on young trees. On older trees, the bark is broken into small irregular plates.



The **leaves** are alternate, elliptic, oblong, widest at the center, finely toothed, dark green, shiny, thick, somewhat leathery, and 2-5 inches long. The underside of the mid-rib near the stalk end is covered with rusty brown hairs.

The **flowers** are produced in many flowered racemes 4-5 inches long which appear the last of May or early June when the leaves are half grown.

The **fruit** is in drooping racemes, dark purple or almost black when ripe, pea-sized, and globular in shape. It ripens from June to October.

The **twigs** give off a pungent odor when broken and the bark has a bitter taste. They are commonly distorted by a black, warty, fungus growth called "black knot."

The **wood** is rather hard, close-grained, light, strong, and is easily polished. It is used for furniture and cabinet making, interior finishing, woodenware, veneer, and plywood.

