



PIN CHERRY *Prunus pensylvanica* L. f.



Pin cherry is not used commercially and has little value except as a protection and cover for the soil on recent clearings or burned areas.

Pin or fire cherry is a small tree, seldom growing taller than 25–30 feet in height and 6–10 inches in diameter. It has slender, horizontal branches and a narrow, somewhat rounded head. It is common throughout the state, but has little value except as a protection and cover for the soil on recent clearings or burned areas.

The **bark** on the trunk of old trees is dark red-brown and broken into thin plates. Bark on young trees is smooth and reddish-brown. The inner bark is slightly aromatic and very bitter. The large lenticels show orange when rubbed.

The **leaves** are alternate, narrow to oblong, widest in the lower third, rather sharp pointed, finely and sharply toothed on the edges, bright green and shiny above, without hairs below, 3–4 inches long, bitter and aromatic, with glands on petiole.

The **flowers** are white, in clusters of four or five, and appear in May when the leaves are only half grown. The **fruit** is bright red, almost translu-





cent, pea-sized, globular and ripens from the first of July to August. In the past, it was used to make jams and jellies.

The **twigs** are shiny, reddish-brown and very slender. The buds are small, ovoid, reddish-brown and clustered at the end of twigs. They are commonly distorted by a black, warty, fungus growth called “black knot.”

The **wood** is coarse-grained, soft and light. It is not used commercially. The gum is edible.

Pin cherry produces abundant 5-petaled flowers every spring.

