

Black Cherry

Latin name: *Prunus serotina*

Height: 40 to 80 feet

Width: 20 to 40 feet

Growth Rate: Fast to medium

Site Requirements: Full sun, deep, moist well drained soil. On good sites black cherry can grow very large, with a long straight trunk.

Physical Description: Deciduous tree. Dense pyramidal form when young, developing more drooping branches with age. Leaves shiny, finely toothed, oval shaped with pointed tip. Fall color often in shades of reds and oranges. Small white flowers in narrow, hanging clusters followed by small reddish black, sweet berries. Bark on young trees smooth shiny dark gray brown with prominent horizontal lenticels. Older bark very distinctive blackish flakes resembling burnt potato chips.

Wildlife Value: 🐝🐣 Stems browsed by deer and rabbits. Fruit eaten by many birds and mammals. Attracts pollinating insects.

Uses: Heartwood is beautiful reddish-brown color, hard and strong. Used for furniture, veneer and dimensional lumber.

Interesting Facts: One of our most valuable hardwoods and prized since colonial times for fine furniture.



Red Oak

Latin name: *Quercus rubra*

Height: 60 to 80 feet

Width: 40 to 50 feet

Growth Rate: Medium to fast

Site Requirements: Sun, moist well drained soil. Grows well on upland sites. most cold-tolerant oak species, hardy to zone 4.

Physical Description: Deciduous tree. Dense foliage, pyramidal form when young, developing long straight trunk in forest conditions, and shorter thick trunk in open situations. Rounded crown, usually more symmetrical than white oak. Leaves glossy, 5 to 8 inches long with lobes ending in sharp points. Fall color ranges from vivid red to russet brown. Big acorns, about 1 inch long, with very shallow caps like little berets. Ripen in two years, bitter taste. Bark smooth when young, becoming ridged with age.

Wildlife Value: 🐿️ Foliage browsed by deer. Acorns a major food source for wildlife species, especially deer, bear, turkeys, squirrels and many birds, especially jays and woodpeckers.

Uses: Very strong heavy, reddish wood, used for beams, framing, flooring and furniture. Tolerant of urban conditions and does well in larger areas like parks.

Interesting Facts: Unusually fast growing for an oak.



Compliments of the Town of Esopus Environmental Board

Silky Dogwood

Latin name: *Cornus amomum ssp. amomum*, also known as swamp dogwood

Height: 6 to 10 feet

Width: 6 to 10 feet

Growth Rate: Fast

Site Requirements: Sun to partial shade, well drained to wet soils. Needs some moisture, is not highly drought tolerant.

Physical Description: Deciduous spreading shrub. Multi-stemmed shrub with dense foliage and rounded form. New stems reddish purple with fine silky hair. Flexible stems will root where they are in contact with the ground. Leaves opposite, oval with sharp tip, 2 to 4 inches long. Clusters of small white flowers in spring, followed by blue berries which ripen to black. Young bark smooth, greenish or brown, becoming brown, slightly furrowed.

Wildlife Value: 🐝🐛 Flowers attract butterflies and other pollinating insects. Fruit eaten by many birds. Leaves and twigs browsed by deer, rabbits.

Uses: Riparian restoration, stream bank stabilization, windbreaks.

Interesting Facts: One of the more shade tolerant shrubs for moist soil. Much used for restoration and stabilization because of ability to readily root from stems.



Compliments of the Town of Esopus Environmental Board

Highbush Cranberry

Latin name: *Viburnum opulus*

Height: 8 to 12 feet

Width: 8 to 12 feet

Growth Rate: Medium

Site Requirements: Sun, moist well drained soil

Physical Description: Deciduous shrub. Upright growth habit. Leaves opposite, 3 lobed, 2 to 4 inches long. Fall color shades of red. White flowers in flat topped clusters, followed by bright red berries.

Wildlife Value: 🐝🐛 Berries a top favorite of many birds. Attracts pollinating insects.

Uses: Hedges, windbreaks, riparian planting, wildlife habitat

Interesting Facts: Not a true cranberry. There are two subspecies of highbush cranberry, one European and one American, both equally attractive to birds.

