

Black Tupelo

Nyssa sylvatica



Fall Foliage



Black Tupelo

Nyssa sylvatica

Family: Nyssaceae

Stem & Leaf Type: woody

Leaf Color: dark green

Fall Color: yellow to orange to scarlet to purple—one of the best trees for fall color

Flower Time: late April, early May

Flower Color: not showy

Fruit: appear in fall—not particularly showy but the blue/black 1/2” long fruit is bird food

Light: full sun to part shade

Moisture: well-drained, tolerant of many conditions

USDA Hardiness

Zones: 4-9

Insect/Disease Issues:

None serious—many trees develop black leaf spot which can detract from quality

Nativity:

Eastern U.S.

Location in the Gardens:

West Entry



Landscape Value:

Black tupelo grows 30’ to 50’ tall and 20’ to 30’ feet wide with a nice pyramidal habit when young with the shape becoming more irregular with age. One of the best native trees for fall color, its show in autumn is spectacular! The color is consistently great and tends to be scarlet with undertones of purple, yellow and orange. Plants tolerate a wide range of soil conditions; growing in dry, well-drained, and moist soils. Trees, however, do not tolerate high pH well—which is often its only limitation for growing in Iowa. Trees can be difficult to transplant so start with a small plants. Container grown plants are easy to produce and common.

Notes:

This tree is great for naturalized areas and makes a good residential street tree. It does not, however, tolerate heavily polluted areas so plant in your back yard and not the strip of yard between the street and sidewalk!

Months of Interest:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec