

Amur Chokecherry



Amur Chokecherry (*Prunus maackii*)

General Description

A small to medium upright tree with white flowers and bright amber to deep coppery-orange bark which curls as it peels off. The distinctive bark provides year-round accent to any landscape.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Alternate.

Bud Color - Brown to amber-brown.

Bud Size - Small, 1/8 to 1/4 inch.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, broad-elliptic to oblong-ovate, acuminate tipped.

Leaf Margins - Finely serrulate.

Leaf Surface - Gland-dotted beneath and slightly hairy on the veins.

Leaf Length - 2 to 3½ inches.

Leaf Width - 1 to 1½ inches.

Leaf Color - Medium to bright green; yellow fall color.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Dense racemes.

Flower Color - Creamy-white.

Fruit Type - A drupe, fleshy outside with a stone inside, 1/5 inch wide.

Fruit Color - Black, matures in July.

Form

Growth Habit - Upright, with slightly hairy branchlets.

Texture - Medium-fine, summer; medium-fine, winter.

Crown Height - 15 to 25 feet.

Crown Width - 15 to 25 feet.

Bark Color - Amber to coppery-orange.

Root System - Shallow, fibrous, spreading.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 5.0 to 7.5.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 4, 4C.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 3.

Water

Prefers moist, well-drained sites.

Light

Full sun.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Large shrub or small tree for farmstead windbreaks.

Wildlife

Fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals.

Nesting sites for song birds.

Agroforestry Products

Food - Fruits can be used fresh or processed.

Medicinal - Seeds contain amygdalin which is processed and has been used in cancer chemotherapy. Some *Prunus* species were used for coughs, colds, and gout. A source of phloretin, an antibiotic.

Urban/Recreational

Showy bark and flowers. Small to medium-sized tree for boulevard, ornamental, park, and specimen plantings. It is sometimes short-lived.

Cultivated Varieties

None.

Related Species

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Chokecherry (*P. virginiana*)

May Day tree (*P. padus* var. *commutata*)

Pin Cherry (*P. pensylvanica*)

Pests

No major pest problems, but borer damage and branch wilts have occurred on isolated specimens. Extracts of flowers are toxic to some insect pests.