

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Prunus virginiana*

Family: Rosaceae (Rose)

Hardiness: Zone 2

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: 25'-45'

Longevity: Medium

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: White

Fruit: Elongated cluster of small purple/black cherries

Fall Color: Yellow

Chokecherry

Description

This medium-sized, suckering, hardy tree or large shrub is native throughout North Dakota. Purple-leaved selections are popular landscape plants. Fruits are commonly used for jellies and jams. The largest tree form in North Dakota is 41 feet tall with a canopy spread of 28 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun.

Water: Dry to medium.

Soil: Average dry to medium soils.

Comments

One of the most important plants for wildlife food and cover. Twigs and foliage are heavily browsed by deer. Chokecherry is often used for beautification in farmsteads and along highways. Several cultivars exist including: 'Schubert' or 'Canada Red' chokecherry - released by Oscar Will Nursery in Bismarck and was originally grafted to reduce suckering but now is largely cutting-propagated. The leaves of this variety turn purple in color as the summer progresses and turns red in the fall. There are several yellow fruited varieties available on the market as well.

Credits: Tree Selector Website, <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/handbook/th-3-13.pdf>

