Aronia arbutifolia

Red Chokeberry

Red chokeberry, a tough, dependable plant with four-season interest, offers high wildlife value. Its flowers provide nectar and pollen for native bees and butterflies, while its fruit sustains over-wintering songbirds.

**Characteristics**

- **Height:** 6-12 feet
- **Spread:** 3-5 feet
- **Bloom time:** April-May
- **Bloom color:** White with yellow and reddish-pink center

**Attributes**

- A tall, multi-stemmed native shrub
- In spring, showy clusters of five-petaled, white flowers bloom followed by abundant glossy, red fruit appearing in dense clusters
- Fruit ripens in late summer and fall and persists on the shrub well into winter
- Dark green, glossy leaves in summer turn a rich, orange-red in fall; reddish-brown, exfoliating bark adds color to the winter landscape
- Common name is from its bright red, fruit which is edible, but astringent, which can be used to make preserves and jellies
- Attracts songbirds, butterflies, and native bees

**Growing and Maintenance**

- **Soil requirements:** Moist, acidic soil
- **Light requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water requirements:** Moderate
- **Tolerant of a wide variety of habitats, even periodic flooding, drought, and pollution**

**Native Range**

- Native to the eastern United States
- Found in swamps, low flatwoods, or around ponds, but also occurs in dry thickets and upland forests

References listed at www.blackswamp.org/factsheetreferences/