



photos: Dan Jaffe

# BLACK GUM

*Nyssa sylvatica*

Attractive, slow-growing tree with waxy leaves.  
Beautiful blue berries and showy scarlet-colored fall foliage.

## Benefits for Wildlife

- Flowers are a food source for bees
- Fruit is a great resource for fall migration
- Hollow trunks provide nesting habitat for bats, owls, and raccoons

Host to 28 caterpillar species, including:  
(common names) The Hebrew; Luna Moth;  
Spiny Oak-Slug Moth; Cecropia Silkmoth;  
Whitemarked Tussock Moth

## Benefits for People

- Striking fall colors
- Tolerates urban growing conditions
- Traditionally, logs were cut and used to house honeybees
- Excellent native alternative to the invasive Callery pear

## Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Sun, part shade, shade
<i>Soil Type</i>	Moist, tolerates poor drainage, but can adapt to drier sites
<i>Height</i>	30-50'
<i>Width</i>	20-30'
<i>Flowering calendar</i>	May to June

## Natural Habitat

- Low, wet woods

