



photos: Dan Joffe

# 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

