



photo: Dan Jaffe

CHOCKECHERRY

Prunus virginiana

Large shrub or small tree with fragrant, dense clusters of white flowers and red to dark purple fruit. Very attractive to birds and butterflies, and fruit can be made into jelly or preserves.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Provides cover and habitat for birds
- Fruit is eaten by birds, rodents, rabbits, moose, and bears

Host to 421 caterpillar species, including: (common names) Coral Hairstreak; Clymene Moth; White Fircula; Hummingbird Clearwing; Elm Sphinx; Large Lace-Border; Small-eyed Sphinx; Interrupted Dagger Moth

Benefits for People

- Fruit is edible, though some parts can be toxic at certain growth stages
- Used medicinally by Wabanaki peoples
- Dense foliage and branches make for an excellent windbreak

Growing Information

Sunlight Full sun to shade

Soil Type Moist, rich

Height 15-20'

Width 10-20'

Flowering calendar April to May

Natural Habitat

- Moist woods, riparian areas, rocky bluffs

