

Prunus virginiana

Choke Cherry

Native to Maine

Upland
Forests and Fields

Leaves



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PERMITTED USE

Look for oval leaves with a finely-toothed edge that are 2 to 10 cm long. Leaves are alternate on the stem.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



SriMesh

CC BY SA

Look for a shrub or small tree that grows up to 6 m tall. Choke Cherry often forms dense thickets (stems grow close together).

Stem



Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

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Look for smooth brown-gray bark with lenticels (pores). The stem has a strong, unpleasant odor when it is broken.

Seasonal Change



National Park Service

pd

Look for clusters of white flowers in late spring. In late summer look for long clusters of shiny, dark-red or black fruit. The fruit is tart and contains small pits.

Similar Species

Choke Cherry is closely related to the Black Cherry but is much smaller. Black Cherry can reach 30 m tall. The leaves of Choke Cherry are smaller and finely-toothed whereas Black Cherry leaves are smooth.

Fun Fact

Choke Cherry is toxic to horses. The bark of Choke Cherry root was once used by native Americans to treat colds, fevers, and stomach ailments.