PLANT FACT SHEET

Nyssa sylvatica Marshall

GENUS *Nyssa* **FAMILY** Cornaceae

COMMON NAMES Black tupelo, Black gum, Sour gum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit is acid. It is used for preserves.

DESCRIPTION

A tree. It grows 15-22 m tall. It has a distinct trunk into the crown. The crown is flat topped. It loses its leaves in the winter. The leaves are alternate and simple. They are 5-12 cm long. They are at the ends of branches. The leaves are dark green and glossy. They turn scarlet in autumn. The flowers are small and greenish-white. They are on long hairy stalks. These are in small clusters in the axils of leaves. The fruit are plum like and 1-3 cm long. They are blue-black. The flesh is thin, oily and sour.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to E. North America. It grows as an understorey tree on low, wet ground. It is often along streams and in swamps. It occurs between 1,100 and 1,650 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 3-10. Arboretum Tasmania. Hobart Botanical Gardens. National Arboretum Canberra.

NOTES

Also put in the family Nyssaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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