

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Get to know your tree:

The blackgum is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, glossy, oblong leaves with short leafstalks. Leaves may appear to be whorled at twig tips. Fall leaf color ranges from bright yellow to red. Flowers are small and greenish-yellow, grouped in clusters. Fruits are small oblong berries that are green when young and turn dark blue-black as they ripen. Berries grow in groups of 1-5 on long stalks. Bark is grey, with rectangular ridges when young. Older individuals have deeply furrowed bark, resulting in a chunky appearance.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter blackgum provides approximately \$36.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 9 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger blackgums, please visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

This tree has many different names, including: gum tree, sour gum, bowl gum, yellow gum, tupelo gum, beetlebung, stinkwood, wild peartree, and pepperidge.

The blackgum is an important species for honey production, with the resulting mild-tasting tupelo honey forming a million-dollar industry in Florida alone.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Blackgums grow to heights of 30-60 feet, with a spread of around 20-30 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does best in moist, slightly acidic soils. It is tolerant of flooding.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees