



Black Gum/Tupelo

Called “one of the best and most consistent native trees for fall color” by tree expert Michael Dirr, the black tupelo is a terrific landscaping choice. Displaying various hues of yellow, orange, bright red, and purple — often on the same branch — its foliage is a stand-out of the autumn season. Even the distinctive bark, which resembles alligator hide, adds visual and textural interest.



Wildlife Value

Yields small, bluish-black fruit that ripens in late September and early October, eaten by many species of birds and mammals; Blooms serve as an important late-spring food source for bees.



Shape	Oval
Growth Speed	Slow to Medium
Scientific Name	Nyssa sylvatica
Mature Height	20’-30’
Sun Preferences	Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade
Soil Preference	Acidic, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Silty Loam, Well Drained

History/Lore



Have you ever heard of Tupelo Honey? Combined with several other tupelo species, these trees yield a highly valued, rich, buttery honey!