Red Splyndor® Black Gum

Nyssa sylvatica 'NSMTF'



Red Splyndor Black Gum in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Tupelo, Black Tupelo, Sour Gum, Pepperidge

Description:

A vibrant native selection, producing bright red new foliage that matures to dark green, then brilliant shades of orange and red in fall; a neat, pyramidal habit of growth when young; prefers moist, organic, acidic soils, but is adaptable.

Ornamental Features

Red Splyndor Black Gum is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has forest green deciduous foliage which emerges red in spring. The glossy pointy leaves turn outstanding shades of scarlet and orange in the fall. The furrowed black bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Red Splyndor Black Gum is a deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Splyndor Black Gum is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent

Planting & Growing

Red Splyndor Black Gum will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.