



20cm half stem Nyssa sylvatica in Summer

Nyssa sylvatica, also known as tupelo or the Black Gum Tree is a ornamental conical slow growing medium sized tree with horizontal branches. Its foliage is oval, not unlike beech, changing from green to a fiery red/purple in autumn.

Its bark is dark grey and flaky when young but becomes furrowed with age. It is a hardy specimen and whilst preferring moist fertile well drained soil it does have the ability to grow in standing water.

It is of particular environmental value for as well as producing black-blue ovoid fruit about 10mm long with thin oily, bitter/sour tasting flesh being very popular with small birds its flowers which are produced in greenish-white clusters at the top of a long stalk, produce nectar which attracts bees and other insects.

Plant Profile

Name:	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Common Name:	Tupelo, Black Gum Tree
Family:	Nyssaceae
Height:	Can grow to above 12 metres
Width:	Can grow wider than 8 metres
Demands:	Works well in a sheltered non north facing aspect, prefers full sun / partial shade
Soil:	Moist Loan, Clay or Sand
Foliage:	Deciduous
Fruits:	Small dull black-blue fruits



Field Grown Nyssa sylvatica 3-3.5m



Deepdale

In Martha's Vineyard in America, this species is called "beetlebung", possibly due to its use in making the mallet known as a beetle, used for hammering the bungs (stoppers) into wine barrels.



Fruit of *Nyssa sylvatica*



Autumn Leaves of the *Nyssa sylvatica*