

Nyssa sylvatica
Tupelo, Black gum, Pepperidge



Nyssa sylvatica (Tupelo, Black Gum) originated in south-eastern Canada and in the east of the United States. The species grows in the dryer parts of swamps, along rivers and in the better drained forests at higher altitudes, along with other species including *Ostrya virginiana, Cornus florida* and *Carya ovata*. *Nyssa sylvatica* was introduced in England by the American dendrologist Humphrey Marshall in 1759. The tree grows to be around 25 metres tall and between 8 - 12 metres wide. The tupelo makes a good, continuous bough, with long hanging twigs and a semi-open, pyramid-shaped to wide egg-shaped crown.

Nyssa sylvatica is mainly known for its spectacular autumn colours. Depending on the type of soil, the leaves turn beautiful differing shades of red, orange-red and yellow. On top of its unique autumn colours, the dark grey, furrowed bark that peels of in chunks when it gets older and its glossy, bright green leaves are striking. The leaves bud bronze in the spring. In May, *Nyssa sylvatica* blooms discrete, yellow-green racemes that are popular among bees and other insects, which make the famous tupelo honey in the US. In late September, small, striking, blue-black berries appear on the tree.

Nyssa sylvatica is a beautiful tree for central reservations, gardens, avenues and cemeteries. With the beautiful, furrowed texture of its bark and the tree's appearance at eye level, the multi-stem varieties make a great asset to any park or garden. *Nyssa sylvatica* tolerates practically all types of soil and can tolerate a high groundwater level. Though the strong tree prefers moist to wet soil, it can also handle quite heavy drought, making the species very suitable for use in wadi. The tupelo is also a real powerhouse in urban climates: the tree can handle high temperatures and heavy frost. *Nyssa sylvatica* does not suffer from branches breaking and it is not susceptible to plagues or diseases.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan	feb	mar	apr	mei	jun	jul	aug	sep	okt	nov	dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, shade trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, bioswale | **Pavement**: none | **Planting concepts**: Climate planting, Eco planting, Solid planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide egg-shaped, wide pyramidal | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 15 - 25 m | **Width**: 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level**: low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral (5.0 - 7.4) | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, birds | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to short-term flooding

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: corymbose, discrete | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, green | **Leaves**: deciduous, obovate, polished | **Autumn colour**: orange, red | **Fruits**: striking, berry, drupe | **Fruit colour**: blue-black | **Bark colour**: grey-black | **Bark**: peeling, furrowed | **Twig colour**: grey-brown | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels | **Root system**: deep, tap root, root suckers

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