

Tree factsheet

images at pages 3, 4, 5

***Prunus serotina* Ehrh.**

taxonomy	
author, year	Ehrhart 1783
synonym	-
Family	Rosaceae
Eng. Name	Black Cherry, Wild Cherry
Dutch name	Amerikaanse vogelkers
subspecies	<i>P. serotina</i> ssp. <i>serotina</i> (introduced in The Netherlands)
	<i>P. serotina</i> ssp. <i>hirsuta</i>
	<i>P. serotina</i> ssp. <i>eximia</i>
	<i>P. serotina</i> ssp. <i>virens</i>
	<i>P. serotina</i> ssp. <i>capuli</i>
varieties	-
hybrids	-
cultivars, frequently used	-
references	McVaugh, R. 1951. A revision of the North American Black cherries. <i>Brittonia</i> 7(4): 279-315
	Schütz, P.R. 1981. <i>Prunus serotina</i> , taxonomie en herkomst (in Dutch)
	Schütz, P.R. 1988. <i>Prunus serotina</i> , verslag van een verwarde geschiedenis. <i>NBT</i> 60(9): 306-312 (in Dutch)
	USDA Forest Service http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/index.html
	Plants for a Future Database; www.pfaf.org/index.html
morphology	
crown habit	tree or shrub, oval to spreading
max. height (m)	in The Netherlands: 25 as a tree, but mostly shrub-like 8 m. in USA: 30 or more as a tree.
max. dbh (cm)	in The Netherlands: 80 or more in USA: 100 or more
actual size Europe	year 1907, Jülich, Germany (trial plot, 1987)
actual size Netherlands	year ..., d(130) 80, h 24 (in 1987), Plantage, Huis Bergh, 's-Heerenberg (also in Stadspark, Eindhoven)
leaf length (cm)	6-15 (-19)
leaf petiole (cm)	0,5-1,5
leaf colour upper surface	green
leaf colour under surface	green
leaves arrangement	alternate
flowering	May
flowering plant	monoecious
flower	hermaphrodite
flower diameter (cm)	1
flower male catkins length (cm)	-
pollination	insects
fruit; length	cherry; 0,8-1,2 cm
fruit petiole (cm)	0,3-0,5
seed; length	stone-fruit; 0,5 cm
seed-wing length (cm)	-
weight 1000 seeds (g)	80-100
seeds ripen	July – August
seed dispersal	birds (especially starling), fox, wood mouse

habitat	
natural distribution	East and Mid USA, S.E. Canada
in N.W. Europe since	introduced in France 1623 by Robin. Introduced in The Netherlands in 1782 by Brakel since 20 th century in Dutch forests
natural areas The Netherlands	-
geological landscape types The Netherlands (Hoek 1997)	dune area, coversand area, drift sand area, ice-pushed ridges
forested areas The Netherlands	as an understorey shrub in Pine and Oak forests
area Netherlands	not a forest canopy tree
% of forest trees in the Netherlands	-
soil type, water	sandy soils
pH-KCl	indifferent
soil fertility	indifferent
light	shade tolerant
① shade tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	2.5
① drought tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	3.0
① waterlogging tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	1.1
plant communities in the Netherlands	Klasse der naaldbossen: -Dicrano-Juniperetum – Gaffeltandmos-Jeneverbesstruweel -Leucobryo-Pinetum – Kussentjesmos-Dennenbos Klasse der Eiken-beukenbossen op voedselarme grond: -Betulo-Quercetum roboris – Berken-eikenbos -Fago-Quercetum – Beuken-eikenbos -Deschampsio-Fagetum – Bochtige smele-Beukenbos
management	
status N. america	frequent species in forests
status Europe	infrequent exotic species in forests
status The Netherlands	frequent exotic species in forests
application	timber tree (USA), in The Netherlands as a weed
propagation	seed
regeneration	seeding, planting; natural regeneration from seed
optimal gap size for regeneration	understorey
first plantation Netherlands	
resprouting after cutting	very good
growth rate (M.A.I. in m ³ ha ⁻¹ j ⁻¹)	fast (data unknown)
diseases	
insects	
wood	
wood	American cherry (Dutch: Amerikaans kersen)
wood structures key characteristics of pores	Ring porous. Tangential bands of pores. 4-5 seriate rays.
vol. mass heartwood (kg/m ³)	560 (12% moisture content)
elastic modulus (N/mm ²)	12.100
durability heartwood	fungus 3
heartwood color	light to dark red brown
sapwood color	yellow to light brown
contents	gum in narrow canals
products	furniture, cladding, musical instruments, tools, cutlery, turnery, veneer
non-timber products	
fruits	-Raw not well edible for humans, contain small amounts of cyanide. -Local Wild Cherry beer is produced at Terschelling.

① Ülo Niinemets and Fernando Valladares. 2006. Tolerance to shade, drought, and waterlogging of temperate Northern Hemisphere trees and shrubs. Ecological Monographs 76:521–547



Black cherry leaves



seedling



young tree, Renkum



leaves in fall color



young bark



bark on a mature tree



bark on an old tree



Black cherry wood

photography 4x © Leo Goudzwaard, Wageningen University



Prunus serotina flowers
photography 2x © Wikipedia



fruits