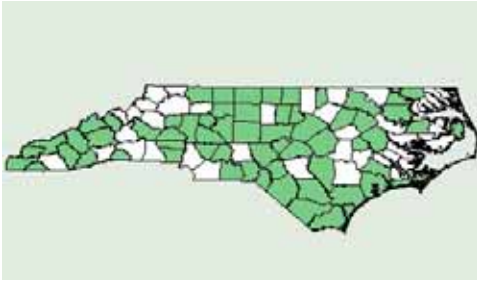


RED MULBERRY

Morus rubra

A small tree having heart shaped leaves.



Description: A medium sized common deciduous tree. It has both male and female flowers. The blackberry-like fruit reaches full development from June to August.

Natural Habitat: Near streams, riverbanks and ditches.

Conservation Status: endangered- Connecticut and Massachusetts;
Threatened- Michigan and Vermont.

Size: 12 to 36 feet

Growth Rate: Fast

Light: Sun, part shade, shade

Planting and Care: Prefers dry to moist sandy, loamy soil but well drained.

Ornamental Value: Foliage turns yellow in fall. Fruit is ornamental.

Landscape Usage: Can be used as an understory tree.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Native Americans used the fruits fresh and for beverages, breads and cakes, dumplings and preserves, and mixed dried fruits with animal fat for pemmican. Red mulberry fruits have long been used in Appalachia for raw fruit, pies, jams, juice and wine. The wood is used locally for fence posts, furniture, interior finish, and agricultural implements. Choctaw Indians wove cloaks from the fibrous inner bark of young mulberry shoots.

Wildlife Benefits: The fruits are eaten by most birds and a number of small mammals including opossum, raccoon, fox squirrels, and gray squirrels.