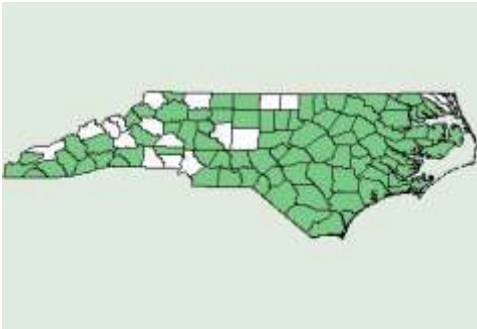


RED CHOKEBERRY

Aronia arbutifolia

Planted in masses, red chokeberry can add a riot of colors to the home landscape throughout most of the year. Though naturally found along a stream bank or at a swamp's edge, the plant tolerates a wide range of conditions. Named for its tart and bitter berries, which are technically edible but so astringent as to cause choking in those who try. Fruits are sometimes used to make tasty jams and jellies.



Description: Stiff, upright, perennial deciduous shrub with 2 to 4" elliptical leaves. White to pinkish flowers appear in April and May. Small red berries mature in August and September and can last through winter.

Natural Habitat: Native of the East and Gulf coasts. Found throughout most of North Carolina in swamps, bogs, along streams, moist thickets, wet prairies, low pinewoods, and seepage slopes.

Conservation Status: Common throughout its range.

Mature Size: 6 to 10' tall, 3 to 5' wide.

Growth Rate: Slow.

Light: Full sun to part shade.

Planting and Care: Easily grown in average, medium wet, well-drained soils. Wide range of soil tolerance including boggy soils. Best fruit production usually occurs in full sun. Remove root suckers to prevent colonial spread.

Ornamental Value: Attractive dark green leaves turn red to purple in autumn, white or pinkish flowers in the spring followed by bright red fruit.

Landscape Usage: Group or mass in shrub borders or woodland areas. Ability to withstand wet conditions makes it suitable for growing on the margins of ponds or streams. Also effective in naturalized areas where its suckering, colonial growth habit does not need to be restrained.

Wildlife Benefits: Fruits attract some birds.