



(photo from Huntersville, NC website)



(photo from Arkansas Forestry Comm.)

Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) a.k.a. Sourgum or Tupelo

Origin: Native to the Eastern US, including Michigan

Mature Size: Large (>45' tall)

Description: Blackgum is a slow-growing tree with a pyramidal or conical growth form, becoming rounded at maturity. It prefers relatively acidic soils, and may perform poorly in higher pH soils. It does not have any serious disease or pest problems, although leaf-spots are sometimes noticeable. Blackgum usually has good fall color, varying from yellow to orange or red. Female trees will produce seeds (small dark blue or black berries). A number of improved varieties (cultivars) have been developed, including: Green Gable™, Red Rage® (seedless), Tupelo Tower™ (upright form).