



## Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)



*Nyssa sylvatica*, commonly known as tupelo, black tupelo, black gum or sour gum, is a medium-sized deciduous tree native to eastern North America. It was also used traditionally by Native Americans as a teeth-cleaning twig.

**Hardiness:** Zones 4 through 9

**Growth Rate:** Slow to Medium

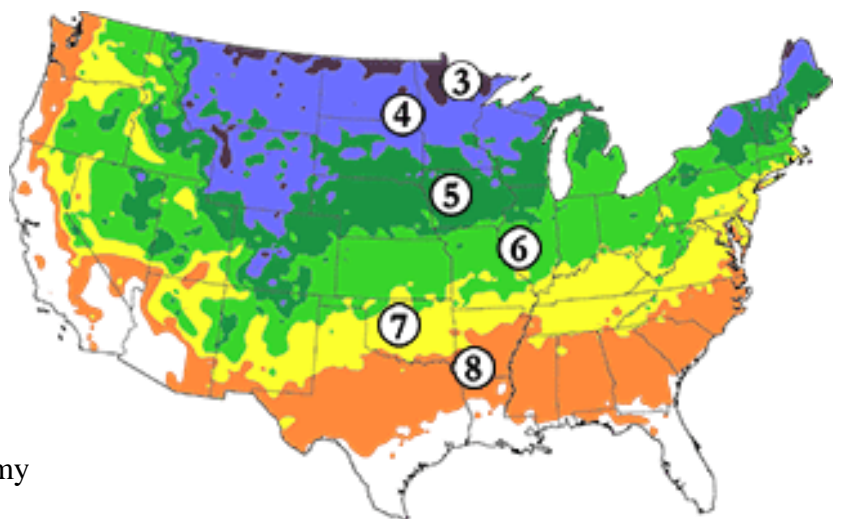
**Mature Shape:** Oval

**Mature Height:** 30 feet to 50 feet.

**Mature Spread:** 20'–30'

**Sun Preference:** Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

**Soil Preference:** Moist, Rich, Well Drained, Loamy



Called “one of the best and most consistent native trees for fall color” by tree expert Michael Dirr, the black tupelo is a terrific landscaping choice. Displaying various hues of yellow, orange, bright red and purple—often on the same branch—its foliage is a stand-out of the autumn season. Even the distinctive bark, which resembles alligator hide, adds visual and textural interest.

- Is known as one of the most attractive trees
- Provides stunning fall color in many shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple
- Develops bark that furrows with age, resembling alligator hide
- Serve as an important food source for bees, birds, and other wildlife
- In the old days, the hollow trunks were cut in sections and used to make bee hives; the flowers produce an excellent "tupelo honey."

