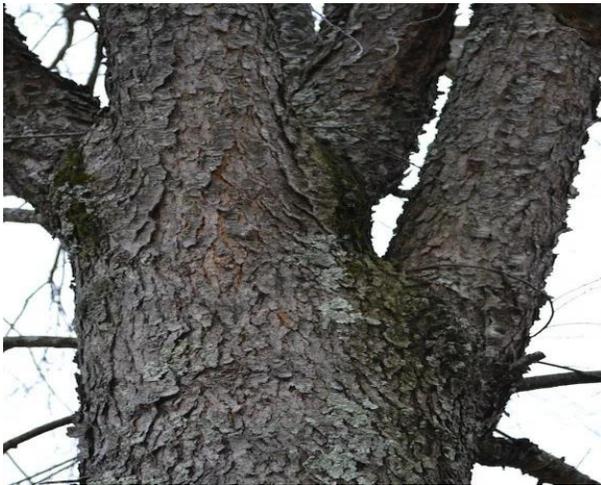


Black Cherry
Prunus serotina



Description: Trees of medium to large size (to 90 feet tall, 3 feet diam.) with a narrow oblong rounded crown. Twigs have a bitter almond taste. Leaves long, slender, finely toothed; pair of glands on leaf stem. Flowers white in long drooping clusters. Fruit clusters of purple-black cherries. Bark black, scaly

Leaves: Alternate on twig simple, borne on short (<1 inch), slender, smooth leafstalks, with a pair of reddish glands near the base of the blade. Blades to 5 inches long $\frac{1}{2}$ as broad; edges finely and blunt-toothed. Dark glossy green above; pale and smooth below, except for rows of orange-rusty hairs along the main vein. Turn bright yellow in autumn

Bark: Smooth, thin (sometimes peeling), red-brown, with long whitish “pores” on young stems. Becoming black and breaking into hard scaly plates on older trees, resembling burnt cereal flakes. Twigs: Slender, smooth, red-brown, with abundant elongated pores; have bitter taste when chewed.

Flowers: White in long drooping clusters

Fruits: Clusters of purple-black, juicy cherries (to $\frac{1}{3}$ inch diam.). One oval (to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch) stone in each edible, although slightly bitter, fruit. Scattered by birds and small mammals

Habitat/Range: Moist, fertile soil of upland woods, fencerows, roadsides, forest margins. Requires open sun for optimum seedling establishment. Throughout Indiana