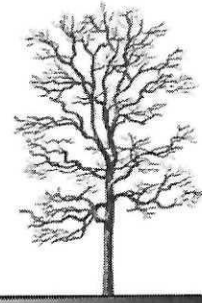


PERSIMMON⁵⁹

Diospyros virginiana



The common persimmon is best known for its sweet, (when fully ripe) orange fruit. The tree, a native of southern Indiana, is most commonly found on the moist, alluvial soils. It is a common species in old fields, clearings and is occasionally found in mixed forests.

Mature Height and Growth

The adult persimmon will reach 20 to 70 feet in height with a dense cylindrical or rounded crown.

Best Planting Site

Persimmon will grow on a wide variety of sites but grows best on moist, fertile soils.



Leaves

Persimmon leaves are simple, toothless and long pointed, and are shiny dark green above and whitish-green beneath.

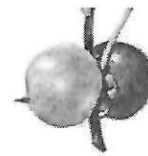


Flowers

Flowers are small, bell-shaped, 4-lobed and white, and are typically fragrant; male and female flowers appear on separate trees.

Fruit

The mature fruit is a rounded or slightly flat orange to purplish-brown berry $\frac{3}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. The fruit is usually sweet when fully ripe, but astringent when not fully ripe. The seeds mature in the autumn before frost, and often remain attached into the winter.



Uses

When ripe, the sweet fruit of the persimmon is sweet and tasty. Persimmons are consumed fresh by humans and are used to make puddings, cakes and beverages. The fruit is an important food source for many wildlife species from birds to deer. Opossums, raccoons, skunks, deer and birds also feed upon the fruit. The wood has limited uses in specialty markets.



Illustrations taken from: Brockman, Frank. "Trees of North America. 1968: "USDA Forest Service Collection" <http://www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/USDA/USDA.html> USDA Forest service, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation and Carnegie Mellow University, June 4, 2004.