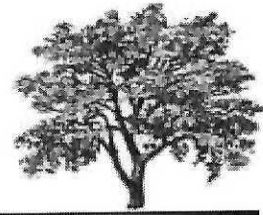


AMERICAN PLUM²⁰¹

Prunus americana



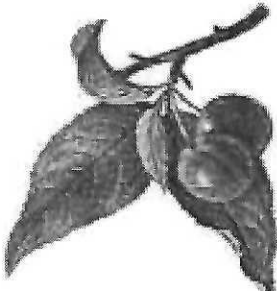
The American plum tree is a relatively small tree that tends to form thickets. The bark of this tree is brown, thin and smooth until the tree is mature and then it becomes scaly. The American plum can generally be found growing in old fields, along banks of streams, and other locations that have rich or moist soil.

Mature Height and Growth

At maturity, it can reach a height of 25' with a diameter of up to 12".

Best Planting Site

This species is adapted to most sites except the very dry ones. It also performs best in full sunlight.



Leaves

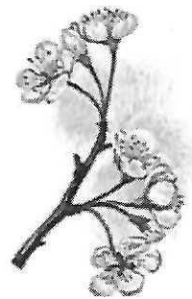
The leaves are somewhat oval with long tapering double-toothed margins. They alternate and are dark green on top and paler green on the bottom. They are approximately 2"-5" long and 2" wide.

Fruit

The fruit is approximately 3/4" in diameter with an orange-red outer skin. The pulp is yellowish and contains one pit. It is very similar to the domesticated plum except it is smaller

Flowers

The white flowers of the American plum tree appear before the leaves and are about 1" in diameter. Although the flowers are beautiful, they do not have a pleasing fragrance.



Uses

Wildlife food and cover. The fruit can also be used in jellies, jams, desert sauces and pies.



Illustrations taken from: Brockman, Frank. "Trees of North America. 1968; Harlow, William Ph.D., et al. "Textbook of Dendrology", 1979; "Wildlife Shrub Species". <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/nursery/order/shrubs.htm> . Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. August 23, 2002.