

Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
By Rebecca Hargrave

Black Chokeberry is a small (5' or less) tree well suited to fruit production. This native member of the rose family is a prolific suckerer and can fill in large areas. It will grow on a wide range of soils from very wet to very dry, and can grow well in partial shade (in deep shade it becomes leggy). *A. melanocarpa* has glossy green leaves that darken with the season, no real fall color in the true species, and white "apple blossom" flowers in May.

Aronia is one of the few forest farming crops that already has a large commercial market. The juice of the ½" diameter dark black fruits can be found in many mixed berry juices (check your kitchen, you may be surprised) and for jellies, pies, and yogurt . There are a few commercial varieties and can be easily fit into the landscape. Black Chokeberry has few serious pests, but should still be monitored for potential threats.