

Black Cherry & Chokecherry, *Prunus* spp.

***Prunus serotina* –Black cherry**

Identification: Woody shrub or small tree with gray bark and obvious horizontal lenticels. Leaves are dark green and shiny above, paler below and are finely serrated, oblong to lance-shaped, with very small inconspicuous glands on petiole. Leaves usually have a dense yellowish-brown, sometimes white pubescence along mid-rib. Small white flowers in drooping raceme. Edible dark purple to black fruits (seeds are toxic).

***Prunus virginiana* –Chokecherry**

Identification: Woody shrub or small tree with gray bark and obvious lenticels. Leaves ovate, finely toothed and rounded at the tip with glands on the petiole. Inflorescence is a cylindrical raceme of white, fragrant flowers. Edible dark purple to black fruits (seeds are toxic).

Habitat: Forest edges, clearings, draws

Animals Affected: Ruminants

Toxin Family: Cyanogenic glycosides found in seed and leaves, bark and shoots.

Other: Causes cyanide poisoning. Largest succulent leaves are most toxic. Wilted leaves and new growth are also highly toxic. Do not plant near animal enclosures.

