

PRUNUS NIGRA Aiton  
Canada Plum

FAMILY: Rosaceae

HABIT: Coarse shrub or small tree to 10 m.; flowering late April-early June; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The foliage of most species of *Prunus* is somewhat similar. *P. nigra* is most similar to *Prunus americana*, but can be distinguished by the following characters: *P. nigra* - leaf margins with blunt, gland-tipped teeth; trunks of arborescent forms rarely to 2 dm. in diameter; petioles with two apical glands; calyx lobes glandular- serrate. *P. americana* - leaf margins with sharp, eglandular teeth; trunks of arborescent forms to 3 dm. in diameter; petioles usually without apical glands; calyx lobes eglandular.

TOTAL RANGE: Nova Scotia and ME to Manitoba, s. to CT, NY, n. OH, IN, IL, and ne. IA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Lucas and Wood counties. There is a pre-1980 record from Geauga County. Braun (1961) reports a record from Fulton County. There are dubious pre-1960 records from Clark & Hamilton counties.

HABITAT: Thickets, stream-banks, woodland borders.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly overshadowing by taller species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering or fruiting specimens; note habit and trunk diameter.

COMMENTS: This species is very difficult to distinguish from other rosaceous woody plants except in flower or fruit. It very likely is overlooked and its true distribution, then, is unknown. It should be sought throughout the state.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 362 p.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimberger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 p.



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## Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

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