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The leaves are stereotyped narrow ovals with pointed tips and are finely serrated, shiny green above and paler below. The serrations on the edges of the leaf are typically rounded.

Prunus serotina

Black Cherry

Rum Cherry

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Prunus serotina

Black Cherry

Rum Cherry



The bark is rough, almost black, made of small broken pieces of the original smooth surface. But look up toward the top of the trunk and limbs and you should see the glossy, dark red cherry bark peppered with short horizontal lines.

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The black cherry has a most irregular shape, the branches are often broken and deshevelled, crossing each other in competition for the light. The tree attracts the tent-caterpillar and is susceptible to a "black-knot" fungus.

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Prunus serotina

Black Cherry

Rum Cherry

Prunus serotina

Black Cherry

Rum Cherry

The fruit is pea-sized hanging in clusters. A dull purplish black, the bitter fruit is edible in late summer, and is prized by robins and jays. Due to its color, its hardness, and its luster, the wood is often prized by furniture makers.

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