

Wild Plum

Prunus americana

Wild plum is a hardy native fruit producer. Flowers appear from March to May and the plums (which are good raw, in jellies, or in baked goods) ripen between July and October. Turkeys, raccoons, black bears, deer, and other animals also enjoy eating fall plums. Rabbits, deer, grouse, and songbirds also use wild plum as cover. Because they have dense root systems, wild plums will minimize erosion on stream banks and wetland edges. You can often find them growing on roadsides, fences, and field rows.

Height: up to 25'

Wild plum grows several inches per year.

Planting environment:

Soil: Sand, loam, or even gravelly soils, tolerates clay

Moisture: Moist to well-drained soils, tolerates dry sites

Sunlight: Full to partial sun (greater than 4 hours of sun/day)

Wild plums may be planted 8' to 15' apart; mature and isolated trees may grow to a branch width of 20'. Tolerates crowding.

Maintenance:

Beware that wild plums can grow dense thickets, sucker aggressively, and take over an area. Control by cutting or mowing if you don't want it to spread. You can leave it as a thicket if you want to provide wildlife cover, or prune it in the winter or early spring into a taller shape.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Plum pocket/bladder plum
2. Black knot
3. Bears

