

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Choke Cherry

(Prunus virginiana)

Get to know your tree:

The choke cherry is a Michigan native species with oblong, relatively small leaves that have a serrated margin (edge). Flowers are white and appear late spring in dense clusters. Fruits are small drupes that begin bright red and darken as they ripen, becoming nearly black. The fruit is astringent and bitter in taste. If given room, the tree can spread out to have quite a wide crown.

Tree benefits:

Over 20 years, a 1-inch diameter choke cherry is expected to provide approximately \$88.28 in benefits, avoid 1,135 gallons of stormwater runoff, and sequester 333.89 pounds of CO₂. To learn more about these benefits, or those of other trees, visit mytree.itreetools.org.



Fun facts about your tree:

Although the fruit is bitter and astringent, it is edible for humans—and can be used to make jams and preserves!

The choke cherry is the state fruit of South Dakota, due to the number of archaeological sites in the state where the remains of the fruit have been found.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Choke cherries grow to heights of 10-30 feet, with a spread of around 30-40 feet (if given the room to spread) – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings. Please consider potential conflicts with solar panels as well! This species does best in moist or dry soils with neutral pH.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.

