



Aronia melanocarpa

black chokeberry

Family Rosaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code FAC CoC 7

DESCRIPTION

Shrub with multiple smooth, erect stems (to 2 m tall) with gray bark, white lenticels (pores) and red buds and twigs. Leaves are simple, alternate (3 to 9 cm long), smooth, oval, wider near the pointed tip and with finely toothed margins. Using a hand lens, tiny elongate reddish glands can be observed along the upper leaf midvein and on the fine teeth along leaf margins.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May to June, August to September. Flowers are clustered at branch tips with two to 25 stalked flowers blooming after leaves appear. The white to purplish flowers have five round to oval petals (5 to 8 mm). Fruits are stalked and bluish-black fleshy, berry-like (pomes) (6 to 10 mm).

HABITAT

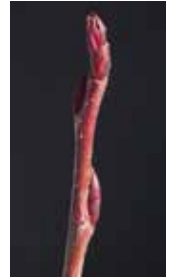
Swamps, bogs, depression ponds, wet or dry woodlands.

SIMILAR SPECIES

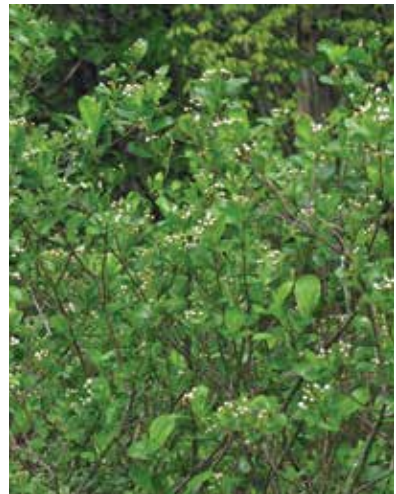
Gaylussacia baccata, black huckleberry, can be confused with *A. melanocarpa* because of look-alike black fruits. However, the flowers are distinctly different being red, tubular and hanging in nodding clusters. Also *G. baccata* has similar simple leaves but both upper and lower leaf surfaces are hairy and gland-dotted (not smooth with glands only on veins and margin tips as with *A. melanocarpa*).



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Aronia melanocarpa, flowers and fruit



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Gaylussacia baccata