Penwood Weeper Black Gum

Nyssa sylvatica 'Penwood Weeper'

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Tupelo, Black Tupelo, Sour Gum, Pepperidge

Description:

A gracefully weeping selection with large, glossy green foliage that turns brilliant shades of yellow-orange in fall; likes moist, rich and acidic soils; not very tolerant of urban pollution; a stunning native specimen for a large landscape



Penwood Weeper Black Gum foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Penwood Weeper Black Gum is primarily valued in the landscape for its highly ornamental weeping form. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn an outstanding orange in the fall. The furrowed black bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Penwood Weeper Black Gum is a deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a rounded form and gracefully weeping branches. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Penwood Weeper Black Gum is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent



Penwood Weeper Black Gum
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Penwood Weeper Black Gum will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.