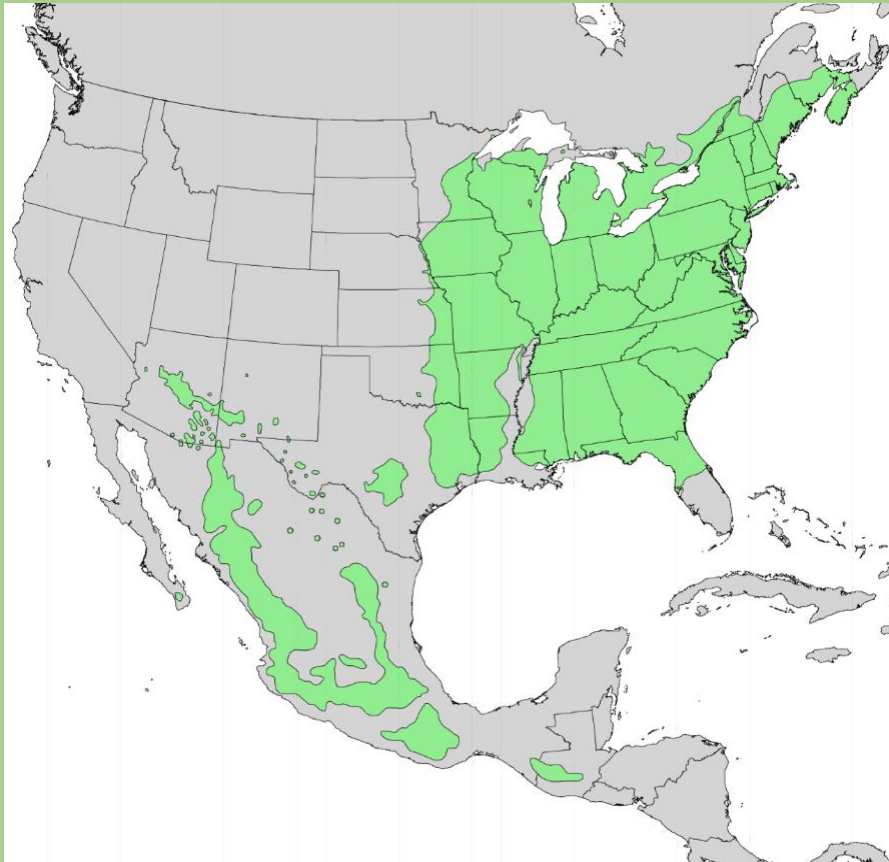


# Black Cherry

*Prunus serotina*



The black cherry is a large deciduous hardwood, and among the largest of North American cherries, growing up to 90 feet or more. It is widespread within North America, including southeastern Canada, eastern and southwestern US, and parts of Mexico down to Guatemala. The oblong elliptic leaves have alternate arrangement and are small with fine teeth along its edges. In the summer, they are shiny green, and change to a diverse range of colors in the fall. The small, white flowers of the black cherry peak in late spring and its bark is a reddish-brown color, with a scaly texture that often curls. The tree serves as a staple for wildlife. Many species flock to forage on fallen cherries, including birds, foxes, raccoons, bears, and even deer or moose, who spread the seeds over large distances. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract many insects, including butterflies and moths, who use the tree as food and a host plant for caterpillars.