



SOUTH NATION  
CONSERVATION  
DE LA NATION SUD

# Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)

## Type

Deciduous shrub

## Size and Shape

Tall shrub up to **10 m. in height**. The trunk often grows crooked and twisted, reaching a **diameter between 5-10 cm**. The **crown spread can reach up to 6 m in diameter**. This shrub does not have any planting restrictions regarding utility wires and has a longevity of 50 years or more.

The crown is round and irregular. Flowers are small and white, from May to June. Fruit are elongated dropping clusters, crimson to black, ripening in August or September.

## Edible Specie?

Drupes are edible and can be made into syrup or jelly.

## Distribution and Habitat

Wide distribution, from deciduous forests to the boreal forest. Prefer to be in sunlight. Does not stand the shade well. Likes moist, rich, moderately drained soils. Tolerates different types of soils, even poor soils.

## Wildlife

are a source of food for various birds and other animals. Very important for birds during winter. The buds are grazed by large mammals.

## Other Notes

Tendency of suckering at the base. To reduce this, pluck them by hand instead of cutting them.



*Chokecherry flowers*

## Light Exposure

Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily),  
Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily).

## Soil Preference

Rich, moist, moderately humid soil, and well drained.

## Drought Conditions

Moderately tolerant.

## Poor Drainage

Intolerant

## Salt Tolerance

Intolerant

## Disease, Pests and Problems

Susceptible to several diseases and insects such as black lump, rust, root rot, blight, borer, moths and summer tent caterpillar.

## Rural Uses

Due to the large root network, the chokecherry can be used to counter riverbank erosion. Used in reforestation and a source of food for wildlife.

## Urban Uses

Often used due to its drought tolerance.