

# Aronia arbutifolia

## Red Chokeberry

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

A cousin to Black Chokeberry, this native\* shrub is truly a plant with four-season interest. Abundant spring flowers are followed by showy fall fruit that may persist into winter as an important food source for overwintering birds. Consistently brilliant fall foliage and exfoliating reddish-brown bark provide ornamental attraction through year's end.



Shrub	April Shrub, Flowers, Fruit and Fall Foliage	
Height: 6–12 feet		
Spread: 3–6 feet		
Bloom Color: White with pink anthers		
Characteristics		
Multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub with stiff, upright habit	 	
Alternate, elliptic, finely serrated, glossy, dark green leaves with pubescent, pale green undersides turn orange to bright red in fall		
Corymbs of 1-inch, five-petaled, white flowers with deep pink anthers in April		
Pome clusters mature Sep–Nov, persist into winter		
Reddish-brown exfoliating bark adds winter interest		
Colonizes easily by suckering		
Attributes		
Tolerates wet sites and occasional flooding; no serious insect problems; at times affected by leaf spot or rust; seldom severely damaged by deer		
Edible but astringent berries** used in jams & jellies		
Attracts bees, butterflies, flies to nectar/pollen and birds/mammals to fruit; larval host for lepidopterans		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
<b>Soil Requirements:</b> Rich, acidic	<i>Acer palmatum</i> - Japanese Maple	
<b>Light Requirements:</b> Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> - Burning Bush	
<b>Water Requirements:</b> Moist	<i>Lagerstroemia</i> spp. - Crape Myrtle	
Plant in full sun for best flowering/fruit production	<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i> - Japanese Stewartia	
Best in mass planting as single plants become leggy	<i>Viburnum plicatum</i> - Doublefile Viburnum	
Use as screening hedge or to colonize natural areas	<p>*It is native to DC and common in DE. It is reported mostly in the Coastal Plain and parts of the Piedmont of MD and scattered in PA. It is frequent throughout VA. ** Red chokeberry is more palatable than black chokeberry.</p>	
<b>Hardiness:</b> USDA Zones 3a–9b		

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington, Virginia and (flowers) Glencarlyn Library Community Garden



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