

NYSSACEAE – SOUR GUM FAMILY

Plant: shrubs or mostly trees

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: simple, alternate; no stipules

Flowers: perfect, some imperfect; 5 sepals (often reduced) or none; 5 petals (sometimes more or none); 5-10, rarely 12 stamens in 2 series; ovary inferior, 6-10 carpels

Fruit: drupe or stone (1-6 seeds)

Other: often included in the Cornaceae (Dogwood Family); Dicotyledons Group

Genera: *Nyssa* (sour gum)

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Black Gum [Sour Gum]; *Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh.

Black-Gum [Sour Gum]

Nyssa sylvatica Marsh.

Nyssaceae (Sour Gum Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: tree; flowers greenish (dioecious); leaves alternate, mostly entire but a few teeth may be present, short tip but fairly sharp, shiny dark green above, paler and mostly smooth below; bark checkered, often deeply, in swamps base is swollen; twigs chambered with white pith, bends without breaking; buds brown with several scales; fruit a blue-black berry (1-3 on pedicel); spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]

