

# American Persimmon



One of the uses for American persimmons is as ornamental trees, given their colorful fruit and intensely green, leathery leaves that purple in the fall. However, most American persimmon cultivation is for the fruit.



## *Diospyros virginiana*

- **Use:** Wild native persimmons are one of the very best trees for attracting deer and wildlife. Deer actively seek out persimmon trees, and eat every fruit that is within reach or when it hits the ground. American Persimmons will bear fruit in 6-8 years. It has black corrugated bark looks like alligator hide and its foliage is orange-red in the fall. Grows in a wide variety of conditions, from wet to sandy soils, lowlands to uplands. Trees are either male or female, so you should plant 3-10 trees in a block, to insure pollination.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Grow in full sun. Well-drained, rich soil. Adapatable to most soil types, but amend with red clay.
- **Growth:** Tree reaches 30-50' tall.
- **Hardiness:** 6-10; Tree.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. This persimmon tree is a handsome ornamental with large leaves and can turn dramatic shades of yellow, orange and red in the fall.
- **Flower/ Fruit:** . The fruit has rich, nutty, amaretto flavor, but is astringent until completely ripe.

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