



# Black / Red Chokeberry



Black Chokeberries at Hunting Park.

**Latin Name:** *Aronia Melanocarpa* (Black),  
*Aronia Arbutifolia* (Red)

**Recommended Cultivars:** Viking, Nero, McKenzie

**Native region:** eastern North America

**Growing Zones:** 3-9

**Mature Size:** Depending on the cultivar, this black chokeberries can grow to 8-12' tall, 6' wide; red chokeberries can reach 15'

**Pruning :** Shrub with no strict form. Remove any diseased or damaged wood and any growth older than three years to encourage younger, more productive canes

**Pollination Requirements:** Shrub is self fertile, produces berries as a single plant

**Light Requirements:** Full sun or partial shade

**Harvest Window:** Aug-Sep for black; Oct-Nov for red

**Maintenance Level:** Easy

**Common Pest and Disease Issues:** Relatively resistant to pest and disease

## Tree Care and Propagation



**WATERING:** For the first year after planting, water twice a week for the first month and then once a week until dormant.



**WINTER/SPRING:** Pruning is not necessary, but can be done in the plant's dormant period. As with any berry-producing shrubs, prune out several of the oldest stems each winter to rejuvenate the plant and ensure best production. Renewal pruning begins in around the 4th year after planting and should not exceed 25% of the wood removed in a season. As with most perennials, aronia will be most successfully planted in fall or early spring.



**SUMMER:** Berries are edible when they begin to turn color, however, antioxidant levels increase and the flavor becomes more palatable the longer they are left on the bush. Black chokeberries are typically ripe in August to early September.



**FALL:** Harvest and process red chokeberries in October to November and enjoy the fire red foliage. Remember to leave some fruit for birds!



**PROPAGATION:** As a shrub with natural suckers, the plant does well with root divisions. It is recommended to propagate by ground-layering: build up the soil around a sucker's base so roots form, allowing the sucker to eventually be cut off to form its own independent plant.