

# ArborTags



The elliptical leaves are 2-3 inches, smooth-edged, shiny green above and pale on the underside. They can turn bright crimson in the very early autumn. The smooth-edged leaf is characteristic of the blackgum and the dogwood in the Northeast.

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*Nyssa sylvatica*

## Tupelo

**Blackgum, Pepperidge**

*Nyssa sylvatica*

## Tupelo

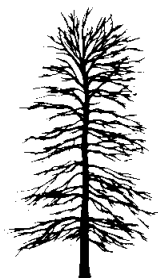
**Blackgum, Pepperidge**



The bark is gray to dark brown, thick and rough, often furrowed into notable ridges: think alligator hide. The branches hold the leaves clustered toward the end in a flat horizontal array.

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The structure is often cylindrical with the branches reaching out and downward. The lowest branches try to touch the ground. Root sprouts are typical around the base of the tree.

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The Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), a Southern relative is noted for its height, its bulging trunk base, and its normal habitat. *Nyssa* is the name of a water nymph, and 'tupelo' is the Creek Indian word for 'swamp tree.'

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