

## Nyssa species

Nyssa sinensis

Nyssa sylvatica

Nyssa sinensis commonly known as Chinese Tupelo is a frost hardy, fast growing deciduous tree native to China.

Growing to some 10 to 12m in height and almost as wide, it has an attractive rounded shape at maturity. Like many other Nyssa, young trees grow with a pyramidal habit.

The 20cm long, green leaves are very attractive and turn brilliant shades of red, yellow, and orange in Autumn. Flowers of black tupelo are greenish white and do not merit much attention.

Small, greenish-white flowers appear in the Spring in axillary clusters but do not merit much attention. They are followed by small blue fruits. The fruits are popular with scavenging birds. Beekeepers seek out the Tupelos while in bloom, because tupelo honey is particularly distinct and flavoursome.

Nyssa sinensis is a beautiful shade tree and its Autumn fall colour scheme alone makes it a highly desired landscape plant.

### Propagation

Most plants are produced from seed. Seed should be stratified by placing in plastic bags with moist sand and refrigerated for a minimum of 60 to 90 days. Following removal from stratification, seeds germinate under warm and moist conditions in about 3 weeks.

Grow in fertile, moist but well-drained, neutral to acid soil in sun or partial shade, with shelter from cold, dry winds.

Plant as small plants, up to 30cm, from containers, as they resent disturbance. Little pruning is required other than to remove competing leaders, or alternatively they can be grown as multi-stemmed trees.