



*The Canada plum's fruit, which ripens in the latter part of August, is edible.*

## CANADA PLUM *Prunus nigra* Ait.

Canada or red plum, has been planted as an ornamental and is found occasionally throughout much of the state. It does not occur in densely forested areas; rather it usually occurs in thickets along field edges. It is seldom over 8 inches in diameter and 30 feet high. The twigs and branches of cherry and plum trees are distorted by the

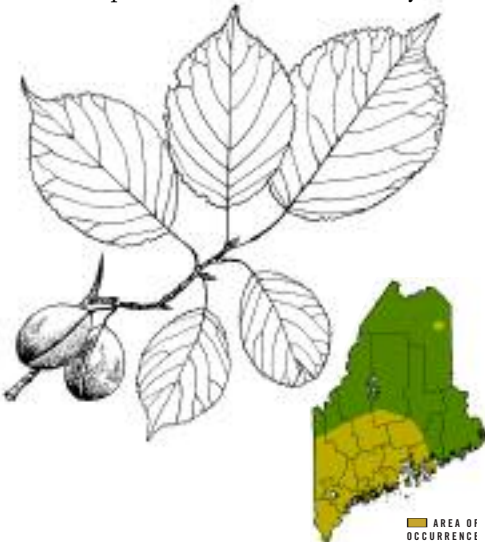
black knot fungus, *Apiosporina morbosa*.

The **bark** is thin, dull reddish-brown to black; it peels in thin papery scales, exposing the shiny reddish-brown, inner bark.

The **leaves** are alternate, obovate, and taper at the apex to a long, sharp point. Leaves are dark green on the upper surface, lighter below; the margin has glandular, rounded teeth.

The **flowers** are white, and appear early in spring before the leaves in groups of three or four on slender stalks. The edible **fruit** ripens the latter part of August, is football-shaped and furrowed along one side, and has an orange-red skin and yellow flesh. The single stone is flattened and slightly grooved on the edges.

The **twigs** and **branches** often have thorns. The buds are brown to gray and are without hairs. The **wood** is not used commercially.



AREA OF OCCURRENCE

