

Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

An excellent small to medium tree, Common Persimmon is an interesting, somewhat irregularly-shaped native tree, for possible naturalizing in yards or parks. Its mature height can be 60 feet, with branches spreading from 20 to 35 feet and a trunk two feet thick, but it is commonly much shorter in landscapes.

Common Persimmon prefers moist, well-drained, bottomland or sandy soils but is also very drought-tolerant and tolerates about any site conditions. It is seen colonizing old fields as a volunteer tree but grows slowly on dry sites.

Its fruit is an edible berry; before ripening, however, the fruit is extremely astringent and not palatable. Most American cultivars require both male and female trees for proper fruiting. The variety *pubescens* has fuzzy leaves and twigs. The fallen ripened fruit can make a slimy mess so plant away from patios and sidewalks.



Common Persimmon is troubled by a leaf-spot disease (shown left) which causes black spots on the leaves and premature defoliation. It will not kill the tree but the litter from early defoliation may be objectionable.

Information Source:

Gilman, E. F. and Watson, D.G. (1993). *Diospyros virginiana: Common Persimmon*. University of Florida.
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st231>

Photos by: Alicia Lamborn