Prunus maackii: Amur Chokecherry
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Introduction
Amur Chokecherry is pyramidal when young but ultimately forms a 30 to 40-foot-tall tree with a dense, rounded canopy which provides light shade below. The deciduous leaves are three inches long and are joined in early to mid-May by an explosion of white, fragrant flowers in two to three-inch-long racemes. The multitude of tiny black fruits which follow ripen in August and are quite attractive to birds. The bark is occasionally handsome cinnamon brown peeling off in shaggy masses on the trunk, but more often is an attractive brown with minimum exfoliation. This tree has one of the most attractive bark features of any tree in North America.

General Information
Scientific name: Prunus maackii
Pronunciation: PROO-nus MACK-ee-eye
Common name(s): Amur Chokecherry, Manchurian Cherry
Family: Rosaceae
USDA hardiness zones: 2B through 6B (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Invasive potential: little invasive potential
Uses: specimen; deck or patio; container or planter; street without sidewalk; highway median; Bonsai
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

Description
Height: 30 to 40 feet
Spread: 25 to 35 feet

Figure 1. Middle-aged Prunus maackii: Amur Chokecherry

Figure 2. Range
**Prunus maackii: Amur Chokecherry**

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical  
**Crown shape:** round  
**Crown density:** moderate  
**Growth rate:** moderate  
**Texture:** medium

### Foliage
- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)  
- **Leaf type:** simple  
- **Leaf margin:** serrate  
- **Leaf shape:** ovate, elliptic (oval)  
- **Leaf venation:** pinnate, brachidodrome  
- **Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
- **Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches  
- **Leaf color:** green  
- **Fall color:** yellow  
- **Fall characteristic:** showy

![Figure 3. Foliage](image)

### Flower
- **Flower color:** white/cream/gray  
- **Flower characteristics:** showy

### Fruit
- **Fruit shape:** round  
- **Fruit length:** less than .5 inch  
- **Fruit covering:** fleshy  
- **Fruit color:** black  
- **Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; not showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches
- **Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; very showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns  
- **Pruning requirement:** little required  
- **Breakage:** resistant  
- **Current year twig color:** reddish, brown  
- **Current year twig thickness:** thin  
- **Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture
- **Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun or partial shade

### Use and Management
Prune to open up the canopy to develop more of a tree-form, otherwise it looks like a large shrub. Remove interior branches and space main branches along the trunk. A more upright shape can be created by removing lateral branches, a more spreading shape can be promoted by removing upright branches.

Use the tree along an entrance road to a commercial development planted on 20 to 25-foot centers or along side the patio or deck in the back yard.

Amur Chokecherry should be grown in full sun on well-drained soil, and performs well only in the north. The trees should be located where the roots can remain moist, but not wet, as drought tolerance is not characteristic.

Propagation is by softwood cuttings from June to July, or by seed.

### Pests
Some of its pests are borers in warm climates, aphids, scale.

### Diseases
This tree is susceptible to infection by leaf spot.

### Soil tolerances:
- Clay; sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

### Drought tolerance:
- High

### Aerosol salt tolerance:
- Moderate

### Other
- **Roots:** not a problem  
- **Winter interest:** yes  
- **Outstanding tree:** yes  
- **Ozone sensitivity:** sensitive  
- **Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible  
- **Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases