



# Common Persimmon

Known for its slow-growing Common Persimmon becomes a large fruit tree, mostly grown in the spring or summer. The Persimmon is native from Southeastern New York to Florida, westward to Kansas and Texas.

Common American persimmon trees are separated by male and female trees, which both produce a set of fruit. Because of their slow growth, the bark develops thick, square blocks and the wood is uniform in texture, strong, heavy, hard and resilient pressure. Its fruit was traditionally eaten in a special steamed pudding in the Mid West and sometimes its lumber is used as a substitute for ebony.



Size: Ten to Fifteen tall and 25 to 30 feet wide



## Characteristics

**LEAVES:** Leaves on the Common Persimmon are deciduous, simple, alternate, and ovate to elliptic or oblong with smooth edges. They can be 3.5-8 cm with an acuminate apex and rounded base, the lower surface usually lighter-colored, especially on young leaves.

**FLOWERS:** The flowers are either male (staminate) or female (pistillate), borne on separate trees, which produces after leafing; flower solitary, sessile or short stalked, bell-shaped 2cm, greenish-yellow. Forms about 2-3 flower clusters. The flowers produce nectar significant for bees in honey production.

**FRUIT:** Commercially have two types of persimmon fruit astringent and non-astringent. Fruit is a berry that is about 2-5 cm wide, greenish to yellowish with

pulp before ripening. It turns yellowish-orange as you see in most pictures to reddish-orange and sweet in the fall. Each fruit has about 1-8 flat seeds. Small branches severed by a twig girdler are often encountered these wounds allow entry of a wilt fungus *Cephalosporium diospyri*, which kills many trees.

**QUIZ QUESTION:** What is the Common Persimmon wood used for?

- A. Wood Hammers
- B. Cabinets
- C. Golf club heads
- D. Wood chairs



**Resources:** <http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/landscaping/Trees/persimmons.htm>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persimmon> <http://www.gardenguides.com/taxonomy/common-persimmon-diospyros-virginiana/>