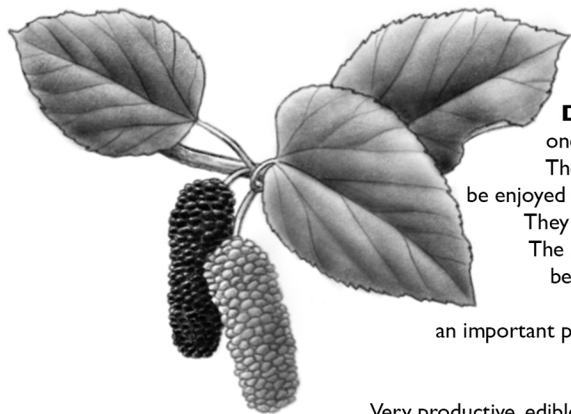


# Illinois Everbearing Mulberry



**Description:** The Red Mulberry tree is one of the highest yielding native fruit trees. The sweet, juicy and slightly tart berries can be enjoyed fresh, frozen, dried, canned or fermented. They make delicious jams, preserves and wine. The berries are high in anti-oxidants and have been used in traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments. Red Mulberries are an important pollen source and food source for wildlife.

## **Primary Uses:**

Very productive, edible fruit that is sweet, juicy and slightly tart.

## **Secondary Uses:**

They produce an immense amount of pollen

Fruit is a wildlife food of birds and mammals

High in vitamins

Traditional medicinal uses include digestive aid, increase in blood circulation, improve metabolism and protect vision

Close grained soft wood is useful for fence posts, furniture, and interior finish work

Red Mulberry trees grow well adjacent to species that produce allelopathic chemicals such as the walnut tree

**Yield:** Up to 200 pounds per tree a year

**Harvesting:** Early to mid summer when the fruit turn from yellowish white to red to black

**Storage:** Fresh, dried, frozen, canned or fermented. Fruit must be eaten or processed soon after harvest.

**Plant Type:** Medium tree 30 – 60' tall. The mulberry has shallow, aggressive roots so be sure to plant away from sidewalks, driveways and septic systems.

**Leaf Type:** Deciduous

**Forest Garden Use:** Canopy Layer, Sub-Canopy Layer

**Cultivars/Varieties:** There are three species of mulberries: white, red and black. Only the red mulberry is native to the United States. Improved cultivars are available.

**Pollination:** Mulberries are usually male or female and cross pollination by the wind is required.

However, the red mulberry can also be monoecious and have both male and female flowers and, therefore, self-fertile. To ensure fruit production, plant at least two mulberry.

**Flowering:** Mid to late spring lasting about 1-2 weeks

**Life Span:** Years to Begin Bearing: 10 years after planting

**Years of Useful Life:** average of 75 years but up to 125 (red mulberry)

## **GROWING CONDITIONS FOR THIS PLANT**

**Light:** Full sun

**Shade:** This plant will grow well in part shade but fruit production will be reduced.

**Moisture:** Well drained, rich soil preferred but it will do well in a variety of soils including clay.

**pH:** Prefers a slightly acidic soil but can grow in a wide range of pH between 5.5 and 7.0