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*Nyssa ogeche*

[Synonyms : *Nyssa acuminata*, *Nyssa candicans*, *Nyssa capitata*]

**OGEECHEE PLUM** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to south-eastern North America it has tiny greenish-yellow flowers and leaves that turn red in Autumn.

It is also known as Bee-tupelo, Gopher plum, Limetree, Lone tupelo, Ogeechee lime, Ogeechee tupelo, Sour tupelo, Sour tupelo gum, Tupelo gum, White tupelo, and Wild limetree.

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

*Ogeche* is derived from a local name ogeechee.

Ogeechee plum was first discovered in Georgia by the celebrated American naturalist, William Bartram (1739-1823), on the banks of the Ogeechee River.

Honey from the tree (known as Tupelo honey) is sold commercially, while the small red fruit are harvested for local use and made into preserves or a beverage. In the past the fruit juice was used as an alternative to lime juice (*Citrus aurantiifolia*).

The seed is either distributed by the birds and small mammals that eat the fruit or by flood waters. The latter carry the fruit (if they have dried a little so that they float) and deposit drifts of them at high water lines as the water subsequently recedes.