Iroquois Beauty™ Black Chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa ‘Morton’
Iroquois Beauty™

This superior chokeberry was selected for its unique, compact habit and its four seasons of interest: clusters of white springtime flowers, glossy green foliage, striking fall color and blue-black berries favored by wildlife.
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Botanical Name
Aronia melanocarpa ‘Morton’

Common Name
Iroquois Beauty™ black chokeberry

Family
Rosaceae

Origin
Aronia melanocarpa is a deciduous shrub found sporadically throughout the northeastern United States and adjacent southern Canada. It is an adaptable species found growing in low, wet areas as well as dry, sandy hillsides. In the Midwest it commonly occurs in soils with low fertility. Iroquois Beauty™ is a selection from the collections at The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois. It originated from seed collected in a bog habitat in Kane County, Illinois.

Hardiness
U.S.D.A. Zones 3-8

Bloom Season
Iroquois Beauty™ blooms mid-May in northern Illinois (U.S.D.A. Zone 5).

General Description and Habit
Iroquois Beauty™ is a multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub selected for its unique compact, non-leggy habit, showy display of small white flower clusters, glossy foliage, abundant production of black fruit, and attractive orange to deep red fall foliage. It establishes quickly and slowly forms colonies via root suckers.

Size
Ten-year-old plants are less than 3-feet high with a 5-foot spread.

Growth Rate
Slow to medium

Ornamental Characteristics
Flowers: Showy 2-inch-wide clusters of small white flowers are produced in early to mid-May. The flowers resemble other members of the rose family such as several Cotoneaster species and Pyracantha coccinea.

Foliage: Lustrous dark green foliage remains clean and disease-free all summer, turning an attractive orange to deep red in fall. Best fall color develops on plants sited in full sunlight.

Fruit: Black to purplish-black, 1/3-inch berrylike fruits are borne in slightly pendulous clusters. The fruit can persist until late fall/early winter, although native birds can consume the majority of the fruit earlier.

Culture
Iroquois Beauty™ is easily grown and is adaptable to a wide range of conditions – sun to partial shade and wet to dry soil conditions. Best flowering, fruiting and fall color occur in sunnier locations.

Pest and Disease Problems
No serious insect or disease problems are known.

Landscape Value
The compact form and relatively small size of Iroquois Beauty™ make it suitable for a number of landscape uses. It blends effectively in a foundation planting as well as in a shrub border. The small scale makes it useful in transitioning between perennials to larger-scale shrubs. It blends extremely well in the naturalistic landscape or woodland garden. The fruit is a good food source for wildlife.

Propagation
Clonal propagation is required as plants propagated from seed are not true to type. Propagation techniques includes shoot and root cuttings or divisions.