

THE AMERICAN PERSIMMON (*DIOSPYROS VIRGINIANA*)

- Persimmons are a small tree usually 30 to 80 feet in height, with a short, slender trunk and spreading, often pendulous branches, which form a broad or narrow, round-topped canopy.
- The tree prefers light, sandy, well-drained soil, but will grow in rich, southern, bottom lands.
- The fruit-stalk is very short, bearing a fruit an inch in diameter or a bit larger, of an orange-yellow color, ranging to bluish, and with a sweetish astringent pulp.
- The fruit is eaten by birds, raccoons, skunks, white-tailed deer, semi-wild hogs, flying squirrels, and opossums.
- In the U.S. South and Midwest, the fruits are referred to as simply persimmons or "simmons", and are popular in desserts and cuisine.

