

Juneberry or
Saskatoon
Serviceberry



Juneberry or Saskatoon Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

General Description

A hardy, medium to tall, suckering shrub, native to prairie hillsides and woody draws. Also called Saskatoon and Serviceberry. Fruits are highly prized for food. Selected cultivars are used in commercial production.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Alternate.

Bud Color - Chestnut-brown to purplish.

Bud Size - Medium, 1/4 to 3/8 inch.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, broad-oval.

Leaf Margins - Sometimes serrate-dentate, mostly above the middle, with rounded tips and bases.

Leaf Surface - Pubescent, becoming smooth.

Leaf Length - 1 to 2 inches.

Leaf Width - 3/4 to 1½ inches.

Leaf Color - Young leaves at first grayish-pubescent, soon becoming smooth and dark green; yellow fall color.

Flowers/Fruits

Flower Type - Erect racemes, at the tips of branches.

Flower Color - White.

Fruit Type - Berry-like pomes, with 4 to 10 small seeds.

Fruit Color - Purplish to black, with a leathery coat.

Form

Growth Habit - Upright.

Texture - Medium-fine, summer; medium-fine, winter.

Crown Height - 6 to 15 feet.

Crown Width - 5 to 12 feet.

Bark Color - Light brown to gray on older stems.

Root System - Shallow.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Prefers loam to sandy loam soil high in organic matter.

Soil pH - 5.5 to 7.5.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 4, 4C.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

Water

Needs adequate moisture to bear fruit. Limited drought tolerance, does not withstand ponding.

Light

Full sun to partial shade.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Large shrub for farmstead windbreaks, and riparian plantings.

Wildlife

High quality plant for wildlife cover and food. Stems, twigs, and leaves are browsed by deer and fruits are eaten by a variety of birds.

Agroforestry Products

Wood - Used as arrow shafts by Native Americans.

Food - Nutritious fruit used fresh, frozen or processed.

Medicinal - Crude extract used in cancer research.

Urban/Recreational

Good for naturalizing, screen plantings and landscape borders.

Cultivated Varieties

Superior quality, larger fruiting cultivars include:

Honeywood Juneberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia* 'Honeywood')

Northline Juneberry (*A. alnifolia* 'Northline')

Pembina Juneberry (*A. alnifolia* 'Pembina')

Smokey Juneberry (*A. alnifolia* 'Smokey')

Success Juneberry (*A. alnifolia* 'Success')

Related Species

Alleghany Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) - Taller growing species with potential windbreak and landscape value for the Northern Plains.

Pests

Intermittent flower or fruit loss may be caused by insects or late frosts.