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.