Silverberry
Silverberry
*(Elaeagnus commutata)*

**General Description**
A medium shrub, native from the east coast to the Northwest Territories, through North Dakota and south to Utah. Would be more popular, but it suckers profusely.

**Leaves and Buds**
Bud and Leaf Arrangement - Alternate.
Bud Color - Silvery-white to pale brown beneath.
Bud Size - 1/8 to 1/4 inch.
Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, ovate to narrowly-ovate.
Leaf Margins - Entire.
Leaf Surface - Silvery-white scaled, brown scales beneath.
Leaf Length - 1½ to 3½ inches.
Leaf Width - 3/4 to 1¼ inches.
Leaf Color - Silver-white.

**Flowers and Fruits**
Flower Type - Tubular, short-stalked, produced in great numbers in the leaf axils in May, fragrant.
Flower Color - Yellow with silvery outside of tubes.
Fruit Type - Egg-shaped drupe, 1/3 inch long, ripens in September to October.
Fruit Color - Silvery.

**Form**
Growth Habit - Narrow, upright.
Texture - Medium, summer; medium, winter.
Crown Height - 5 to 9 feet.
Crown Width - 3 to 6 feet.
Bark Color - Brown to gray.
Root System - Fibrous, spreading, profusely suckers.

**Environmental Requirements**

**Soils**
Soil Texture - Performs best on well drained, coarse-textured soils with moist subsoil.
Soil pH - 6.0 to 8.0. Adaptable to high pH and saline soils.
Windbreak Suitability Groups - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C, 5, 6D 6G, 9C, 9L.

**Cold Hardiness**
USDA Zone 2.

**Water**
Prefers subsoil moisture as opposed to waterlogged or ponded sites. Drought tolerant.

**Light**
Full sun or light shade.

**Uses**

**Conservation/Windbreaks**
Small to medium shrub for farmstead and field windbreaks and riparian plantings. May become a serious weed in pastures.

**Wildlife**
Dense thickets provide cover to many wildlife species. Fruit used as food for song and game birds. Hoofed browsers may feed on leaves and twigs.

**Agroforestry Products**
Food - Not used.
Medicinal - In Japan, *E. multiflora* fruits are used in production of alcohols.

**Urban/Recreational**
Very attractive silvery-green foliage, tolerant to droughty and high pH sites. Suckers profusely which limits use in home landscapes. Could be massed for color accent on public grounds.

**Cultivated Varieties**
None.

**Related Species**
Russet Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*)
Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)
Silver Buffaloberry (*S. argentea*)

**Pests**
Common diseases include branch cankers. Subject to damage by rabbits.