Silver Buffaloberry
**Silver Buffaloberry**  
*Shepherdia argentea*  

**General Description**  
A tall, thorny, thicket-forming native shrub. Well adapted to dry, moderately alkaline and saline soils. Tolerates infertile soils, in part because of its ability to fix and assimilate atmospheric nitrogen. Berries used for jellies.

**Leaves and Buds**  
Bud Arrangement - Opposite.  
Bud Color - Silvery.  
Bud Size - Small, solitary or multiple, stalked, oblong.  
Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, oblong-elliptical.  
Leaf Margins - Entire.  
Leaf Surface - Finely-scaled, pubescent.  
Leaf Length - 1 to 2 inches.  
Leaf Width - 1/4 to 5/8 inch.  
Leaf Color - Silvery-gray on both surfaces.

**Flowers and Fruits**  
Flower Type - Dioecious.  
Flower Color - Yellowish.  
Fruit Type - Drupe-like, insipid, ovoid.  
Fruit Color - Predominately red, however, some female plants can produce yellow fruits.

**Form**  
Growth Habit - Loosely branched shrub of rounded outline.  
Texture - Medium-fine, summer; fine, winter.  
Crown Height - 6 to 14 feet.  
Crown Width - 8 to 14 feet.  
Bark Color - Brown.  
Root System - Spreading.

**Environmental Requirements**  

**Soils**  
Soil Texture - Grows well in most soils.  
Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0. Adapted to moderately alkaline and saline soils.  
Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C, 5, 6D, 6G, 8, 9C, 9L.

**Cold Hardiness**  
USDA Zone - 2.

**Water**  
Drought tolerant. Not adapted to wet, poorly-drained sites.

**Light**  
Full sun.

**Uses**  

**Conservation/Windbreaks**  
Medium to tall shrub for farmstead and field windbreaks, riparian plantings, and highway beautification.

**Wildlife**  
Highly important for mule deer browse. Ideal cover and nesting site for many birds. Preferred food source of many songbirds and sharptail grouse. Good late winter food source for birds.

**Agroforestry Products**  
Food - Fruit processed as jams and jellies.

**Urban/Recreational**  
Ornamental foliage and fruit, but limited in use because of thorns and suckering habit.

**Cultivated Varieties**  
Sakakawea Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea* ‘Sakakawea’)  
- Released by USDA-NRCS, Plant Materials Center, Bismarck, North Dakota.

**Related Species**  
Russet Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*)  
Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)  
Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)  
Silverberry (*E. commutata*)

**Pests**  
Common diseases include stem decay and branch canker. Deer commonly browse the twigs and leaves. Stems are sometimes broken by snow.