



DEEPLY ROOTED

the extraordinary benefits of trees

Serviceberry *Amelanchier canadensis*



Native Range
North American East Coast

Description
The serviceberry is a large shrub or small tree with white flowers that turn to berries in June and July that birds love. It turns a lovely bright red and gold in the fall. The tree is also known as the shadbush or shadblow. According to legend, when the serviceberry bloomed, the ground had thawed enough for graves to be dug and religious services held for the dead, hence the name serviceberry. The genus *Amelanchier* has over 20 species, many of which are native to Eastern North America.

Pollination
While serviceberries are self-pollinating, it is best to plant two different trees less than 50 feet apart to help ensure pollination and produce more fruit.

Environmental Benefits
The flowers appear in early spring “when the shad run,” according to North American tradition, and attract pollinator insects (especially bees). Birds - and people! - love the edible, sweet berries. The berries are rich in iron and copper.

Environmental Concerns
Serviceberry trees are sensitive to drought and can be subject to disease and insect damage. Fortunately, these problems tend to be cosmetic rather than existential.

History
Indigenous Peoples dried the berries like raisins or pounded them into cakes. Often the dried fruits were mixed with meat and fat to form pemmican, a lightweight, high-energy food that could support winter travelers for long periods if the diet was supplemented with foods containing vitamin C to prevent scurvy.

Size
At maturity, height of up to 26’ and a crown spread of 15’ to 25’.

Ease of Tree Care
This is a very easy to grow tree.

Where to Plant
The serviceberry likes full sun to partial shade, and grows well in acidic, moist, well-drained soil.

