



Washington Association Of Conservation Districts

PLANT MATERIAL CENTER

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SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier alnifolia

Distribution: Serviceberry is known as a variety of common names such as Saskatoon, Shadbush and Juneberry. This is a widespread species, occurring abundantly throughout western North America at low to mid elevations.

Growth Habit: Serviceberry grows as a small deciduous tree or upright shrub. The size to which it grows varies, but typically ranges from 6 to 15 feet tall with an approximately equal spread. It often spreads by underground runners, creating large thickets.



Adaptability: Serviceberry grows in a wide range of conditions. It tolerates soils that range from moist to dry and coarse to fine. It grows on sites that vary from full sun to shade, on terrain from level to steep. It often grows best in areas with over 12 inches of annual precipitation, good drainage, and moderate exposure.

Comments: Serviceberry has many uses as a conservation species. It establishes well in disturbed sites with coarse soils. Its dense, spreading, rhizomatous root system provides good soil stabilization. It is also an excellent plant for enhancing wildlife habitat. The berries produced in late summer are a favorite food of animals including birds, rodents and bears. It also provides winter forage for many mammals, which can place young seedlings and saplings at risk. New plantings may require protection from livestock, deer, mice, voles, etc. Serviceberry is also used as an ornamental. It produces masses of fragrant white flowers in late spring. Its foliage is also quite attractive in the fall. It has historically been cultivated for berry production.

