

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)
By Rebecca Hargrove

Serviceberry, Juneberry, Shadbush, or Shadblow

Serviceberry is a beautiful early spring bloomer, one of the first small trees to flower, with delicate white blossoms. It is easily spotted on the edge of hardwood forest stands in April. This small tree reaches 30 feet in height and can equal that in width. It has smooth gray bark and an open canopy, and can survive well in shady understory environments (50%) shade. The ¼" berry ripens in June after changing from green to red, to purple, and is tasty right off the tree, although they are also quite popular in jams, jellies and desserts.

There are many species and cultivars of *Amelanchier* with *A. arborea* and *A. alnifolia* being quite common. They are native trees and often hard to distinguish from one another. Both varieties listed, and many others, are excellent fruit producers. Generally the Serviceberry has small, oval green leaves that turn golden to red in autumn. *Amelanchier* is a member of the rose family and can have some leaf rusts and spots and a few insect pests.