

Inland serviceberry (*Amelanchier interior*)

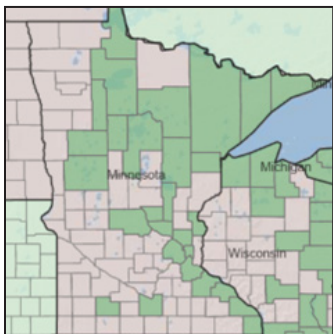
Family: Rose (Rosaceae)

DESCRIPTION: This large shrub commonly grows in forested areas throughout north-central Minnesota, often alongside oaks, trembling aspen, paper birch and pines. It flowers from late April to early June, before the leaves have fully developed. Serviceberry's many common names include Juneberry, shadbush and saskatoon.

USES: The fruit feeds birds, other wildlife, pollinators and people. Ripe fruit can be eaten fresh, used in baked goods, or made into jelly, syrup or preserves. It also provides pollinator habitat. The shrub, which grows well in a variety of soils, can be used in landscaping as erosion control.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota;
Welby R. Smith
[Minnesota Seasons](#)
[University of Minnesota Extension](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA Plants Database



Planting Recommendations

A slow-growing, hardy shrub that can live up to 50 years, inland serviceberry prefers dry to dry-mesic conditions and grows best in sandy to sandy-loam soils. It tolerates shade but grows larger and produces more fruit with ample sunlight. Although it reestablishes well after disturbance, it is not an aggressive spreader in open areas. Serviceberry can be purchased and planted as a containerized or bare-root seedling. When planting serviceberry, keep the roots moist but not saturated. Dig a

hole about twice as wide as the root system and slightly deeper than the root length. For bare-root seedlings, make sure the hole is deep and wide enough to prevent roots from bending upward into a "J" shape. Firmly press soil around the roots, and water thoroughly after planting. Consider mulching around freshly planted trees, but avoid placing mulch directly against the trunk. Good companion plants include red osier dogwood, elderberry, American plum and red oak.

Developed by Rachel Poppe, North Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District forester

Photo Credits: R.W. Smith, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS:
None

ID: Inland serviceberry is a large, often multi-stemmed shrub ranging from 3 to 40 feet tall, with smooth gray bark. It may occasionally grow as a single-stemmed small tree. Leaves are simple, alternate, and sharply serrated, with an egg-shaped to elliptical form growing up to 2¾ inches long and up to 2 inches wide. Terminal buds are sharply pointed, up to a half-inch long; they may be hairy or smooth. Flowers appear in clusters of four to 12 at the ends of stems and branches. Each flower has five white petals and a hairy ovary. The fruit is a berrylike pome that ripens to a dark purple.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) has similar leaves but has red berries that grow on racemes. Minnesota's eight native serviceberry species often hybridize, making them difficult to distinguish.