



Serviceberry

Description: The Serviceberry is a graceful small tree known for its highly nutritious and delicious berries that are similar in flavor to the blueberry.

The fruit is delightful to eat raw but can also be dried, frozen, canned or fermented to make a mead or cider. The twigs, red leaves and fruit can be made into a healing tea. The Serviceberry is an

important wildlife species as it attracts a large amount of native bees, pollinators, beneficial insects, birds and mammals. This tree is in the Rose family and requires pruning in order to maintain optimum health but will reward you with beauty, food and wildlife diversity.

Primary Uses:

Edible fruit can be used fresh, dried, frozen, or used in jams, jellies or pies. The fruit is high in antioxidants and similar in taste to blueberries.

Secondary Uses:

General insect pollen plant

Fruit is a food source for birds and mammals

Host species for beneficial insects

Edible hedge plant

The wood is extremely heavy and can be made into tool handles or arrows

Medicinal properties

Yield: 10 pounds per tree (Saskatoon variety) when pruned to maintain and open canopy.

Harvesting: Fruit is ready for harvest when the berries turn a dark purple; usually in June. The red leaves, twigs and flowers can be dried and used as a tea.

Storage: The fruit can be dried, frozen, canned or fermented

Plant Type: Tall shrub or small tree depending on the cultivar from 6 – 30 foot in height.

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Forest Garden Use: Canopy layer, Sub-Canopy (Understory) Layer, Shrub Layer

Cultivars/Varieties: Many species and varieties available. The best tasting fruit is on the Saskatoon variety.

Pollination: Important source of nectar and attracts large numbers of native bees

Flowering: White clusters of flowers April through May

Life Span: 50-70 years

Years to Begin Bearing: 3-5 years depending on the variety with production peaking around 8 years old

Years of Useful Life: This plant will fruit for 20-30 years, depending on the variety, when pruned to maintain an open canopy which allows for good air flow and light penetration.

GROWING CONDITIONS FOR THIS PLANT

Light: Full sun to part shade

Shade: Although serviceberry grows well in full shade the fruit production will be diminished in these conditions.

Moisture: Prefer a well drained, lightly moist soil. They do not like to be saturated so water lightly.

pH: Most species prefer 6 – 7 but are adaptable to pH as low as 5.6