## Native Plant of the Month

### Landscape Value

Serviceberry grows as a shrub or small tree with beautiful flowers in spring, and clusters of berries in summer. The leaves are dark and attractive. This is a good plant for the back of a planting and along forest edge zones.

Its fruit is so tasty it can be planted as part of a berry garden along with blueberries, currants, raspberries, and blue elderberry. It thrives in sun to part shade and is drought tolerant.

Serviceberry has a long history of horticultural use and there are many cultivars available. The Center for Urban Horticulture at UW has an experimental display garden of many of these cultivars.

### Serviceberry

**Also Sarvisberry, Juneberry and Saskatoon**

*Amelanchier alnifolia*

- Its numerous common names indicate its wide distribution in North America.
- The names “Service” and “Sarvis” are most likely mutations of its previous classification in the *Sorbus* genus.
- “Juneberry” indicates the month the berries ripen. “Saskatoon” is derived from a Blackfoot name for this berry, *mis-ask-a-tomina*.
- Tribes throughout its range used this plant for its sweet berries and hard wood.
- Deer and elk browse on its foliage and many birds feed on the berries.