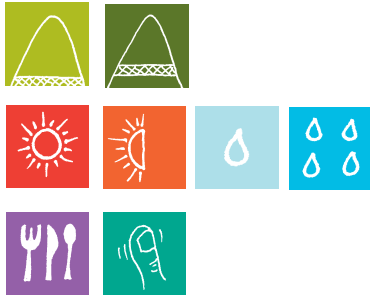


Serviceberry

(Saskatoon Serviceberry)



Rose Family

Amelanchier alnifolia

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RELATIVES

Strawberry, Rose, Chokecherry, Raspberry

EASY IDENTIFICATION

Round, partly-toothed leaves; white flower in spring; purple berry in late summer



Flower Serviceberry shrubs flower early each spring, dusting lowland hills in white.

WINTER LANDSCAPING Serviceberry (pronounced sarviceberry) can survive very dry conditions. They grow on south-facing slopes where deer and elk graze in winter. In these locations, the shrubs grow in very dense patches rarely taller than six feet high because of intense winter feeding. In areas where deer and elk are not present, the bushes can be 10-15 feet tall.

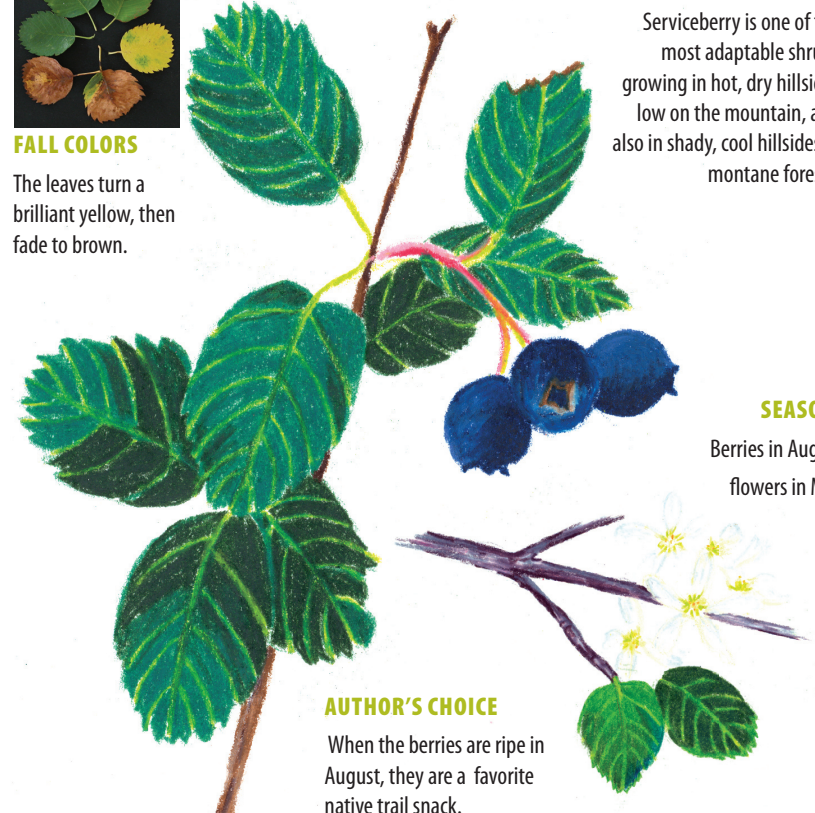
EARLY WRITINGS Meriwether Lewis was the first European to observe and write about this species of Serviceberry. On August 2, 1805 he noted in the language and spelling of the time, "We found a great Courants,...also black goosburies and service buries now ripe and in full perfection, we feasted sumptuously on our wild fruit, particularly the yellow courant and the deep purple service bury which I found to be excellent....The service bury grows on a smaller bush different from ours (in the eastern U.S.) only in colour and the superior excellence of its flavor and size, it is of a deep purple."

GOOD FOOD Native Americans in the Rocky Mountain region dried the berries for winter food and added them to cakes and to pemmican made from meat and fat. They used the wood for arrows, the fiber for making rope and the leaves and twigs for medicine. Wildlife also depend on the fruit. In August when the berries are ripe, raccoon, bear and fox scat are often purple with partly digested berries.



FALL COLORS

The leaves turn a brilliant yellow, then fade to brown.



AUTHOR'S CHOICE

When the berries are ripe in August, they are a favorite native trail snack.

ADAPTABLE

Serviceberry is one of the most adaptable shrubs growing in hot, dry hillsides low on the mountain, and also in shady, cool hillsides in montane forests.

SEASONS

Berries in August, flowers in May.



Berries The berries are sweet right off the branch!



Leaf The leaves are round, smooth at the bottom and toothed at the top.