

Community Tree Profile:

Apple Serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora*)

by Laura G. Jull
Dept. of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Native To: Hybrid cross that does occur naturally. Parents are *Amelanchier laevis* and *Amelanchier arborea* which are both native to eastern and north central United States and Canada.

Mature Height*: 15' to 30' depending on cultivar

Spread*: 10' to 20' depending on cultivar

Form: Spreading upright, multi-stemmed to single stem, nonsuckering; medium texture.

Growth Rate*: Moderate

Foliage: Egg-shaped, simple leaves with serrated margins and heart-shaped leaf base. Emerging leaves are bronzy and slightly pubescent, changing to medium green and reaching 2–4" long.

Fall Color: Bright orange to red.

Flowers: Showy flowers, pinkish in bud, opening to white; in pendulous clusters in early spring before the leaves emerge.

Fruit: 1/4"-long red pome turning purplish-black when ripe; sweet and edible; produced in June; attracts birds.

Bark: Smooth gray bark often streaked with vertical black lines.

Site Requirements: Prefers full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil.

Hardiness Zone: 3a to 8

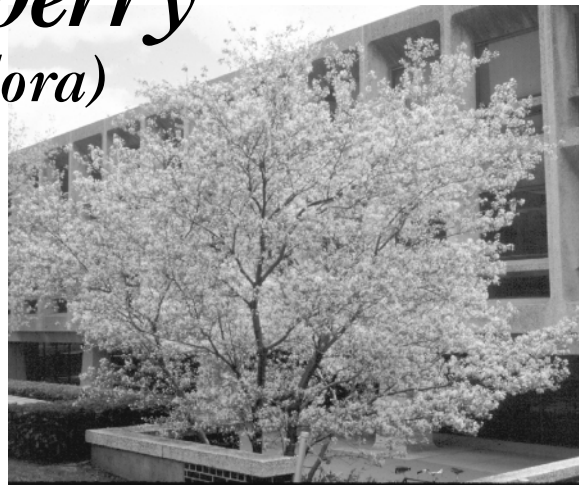
Insect & Disease Problems: Susceptible to spider mites, leaf miner, borers, pear slug sawfly, rust on the fruit, fireblight, and leaf spot, but hybrid is less susceptible to pests than its parents.

Suggested Applications: Apple serviceberry is an excellent, small landscape tree that can be used under powerlines. It can also be used in small areas or as a specimen in the landscape.

Limitations: Can develop chlorosis in high-pH soils. Sensitive to drought, road salt, soil compaction and air pollution. Recovers slowly after transplanting.

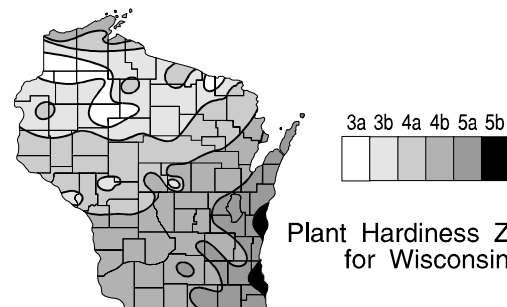
Comments: Its outstanding display of early spring flowers, edible fruit, showy fall color, and smooth, gray bark provide multi-season interest.

Common Cultivars:
'Autumn Brilliance' – Orange-



Apple serviceberry in full bloom

Photo by Dr. Laura Jull, UW–Madison



Plant Hardiness Zones for Wisconsin

*Urban tree size and growth rate vary considerably and are strongly controlled by site conditions.

red fall color; faster growth rate; 20' to 25' tall with rounded form.

'Cole's Select' – Excellent red fall color; 20' tall with spreading form; glossy leaves.

'Princess Diana' – Bright red-orange fall color; 25' tall; leaf spot resistant.

'Robin Hill' – Bright red fall color; 20' to 30' tall with oval form; often single-stemmed tree; pinkish white flowers that fade to white; one of the first cultivars to flower in spring.

'Strata' – Orange fall color; 25' tall, with horizontal branching; abundant flowers.

References:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses by Michael A. Dirr, Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

Landscape Plants for Eastern North America, 2nd ed. by Harrison L. Flint, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York.


Street Tree Factsheets by Henry D. Gerhold, Willet N. Wandell, and Norman L. Lacasse, Penn State University, University Park, PA. 

Photo by Dr. Laura Jull, UW–Madison



Amelanchier flowers