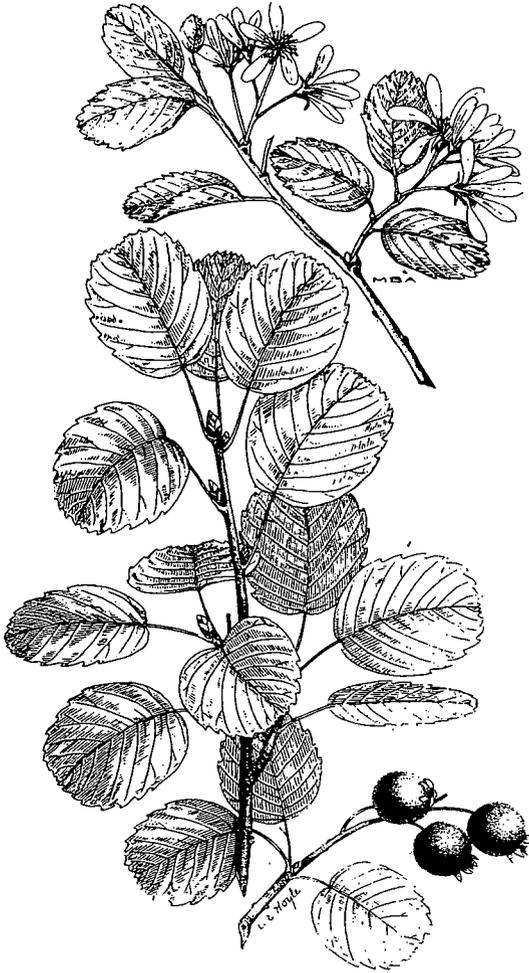


# Saskatoon Serviceberry

(Amelanchier alnifolia)



Where does it grow? This plant is found on the east slopes of the Cascade Mountains, the Wallowa and the Blue Mountains. It usually grows in the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir zones in these areas.

Is it important? Saskatoon serviceberry is a highly important browse species for deer and elk. It is usually good for sheep and fair for cattle feed. The fruit is readily eaten by birds, rodents, and bears. The fruit is palatable to man and is sometimes used to make jam and jellies.

What does it look like? Saskatoon serviceberry is a dark green shrub ranging from 3 to 15 feet tall. Sometimes it is low and twiggy. The low brushy growth form usually results from heavy browsing by wildlife or livestock.

Description:

Length of Life--Perennial.

Flowers and Fruit--Small showy white flowers with petals less than 1/2 inch long. The fruit is a purple berry-like pome (apple) covered with a waxy substance.

Leaves--Dark green on the upper side and quadrangular or round in outline, with characteristic incurved serrations or teeth on the margins.

Stems--Young twigs are hairy but soon become hairless and smooth; mature twigs are gray-brown to reddish brown.

Does it look like anything else? It looks similar to Cusick serviceberry (Amelanchier cusickii) and the two often grow together. Cusick's serviceberry has pale green leaves on both sides and large flowers with petals up to 1 inch in length. Saskatoon serviceberry has leaves dark green on the upper side and small flowers with petals less than 1/2 inch long.