European Serviceberry

Amelanchier lamarckii



European Serviceberry flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



European Serviceberry in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

A showy large shrub or smaller tree with pretty clusters of snowy white flowers in spring followed by edible purple berries in summer, good fall color; tends to sucker less than some of the native serviceberries

Ornamental Features

European Serviceberry features showy clusters of white flowers rising above the foliage in early spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The oval leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall. It produces deep purple berries from late spring to early summer.

This plant is primarily grown as an ornamental, but it's also valued for its edible qualities. The small round tart berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Cooking
- Preserves

Landscape Attributes

European Serviceberry is a multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

European Serviceberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

European Serviceberry will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more. While it is considered to be somewhat self-pollinating, it tends to set heavier quantities of fruit with a different variety of the same species growing nearby.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.