

Serviceberry

Amelanchier canadensis



Bloom: March-April

If the paperbush is blooming, you'll probably smell it from a distance! If not, be sure to get up close enough to catch the powerful fragrance.

Plant History and Habits

Blooms in March or April with little white clusters of flowers. Serviceberries ripen in June, starting green, turning red, and ultimately a deep purple—if the squirrels and birds leave any that long! They are tasty to people, too. Leaves turn a bright red or gold in the fall.



Folklore



Colonial settlers planned funeral 'services' when the serviceberry bloomed, since they knew the ground wouldn't be too frozen to dig a grave at that time nor too cold for traveling ministers. Its blooming was also associated with the spring shad spawning run up the rivers, so it was called 'shadbush' or 'shadblow.'

Origins

This shrub is native to the Northeast United States.

Look for it...

There is a labeled serviceberry along the wood-chipped trail just above the Viette Perennial Garden.

