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Amelanchier arborea

[Synonyms : *Amelanchier canadensis*, *Amelanchier canadensis* var. *subintegra*, *Amelanchier lucida*, *Aronia canadensis* var. *botryapium*, *Mespilus arborea*, *Mespilus canadensis*]

DOWNY SERVICEBERRY is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to eastern North America it has small, fragrant white flowers and leaves that turn yellow, orange and red in Autumn. It is also known as Allegheny serviceberry, Apple shadbush, Canadian serviceberry, Common serviceberry, June berry, May cherry, *Muchovník stromovitý* (Czech), Northern smooth shadbush, Sarvice, Sarvis-tree, Service berry, Servicetree, Shadberry, Shadblow, Shadblown serviceberry, Shadblow serviceberry, Shadbush, and Shadbush serviceberry.

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

Arborea is derived from Latin *arbor* (tree) meaning 'tree-like or tending to be woody'.

The dark purple to black berries were eaten by the North American Cherokee Indians.

As a medicine the Cherokee also prescribed an infusion for treating worms and diarrhoea.

Whereas the Iroquois Indians used an infusion of bark as a remedy for some venereal disease.

Locally the fruit are eaten in pies (or preserved for Winter use).

Birds are particularly partial to the berries.

The very hard and strong, dark brown wood has provided local material for small articles and tool handles. It has also been used for fishing rods and has then been called 'Lance wood'.

Downy serviceberry is grown as an ornamental plant and its extensive root system can be employed for erosion control if cultivated on embankments.