

*Amelanchier canadensis*

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

**SHADBLOW** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to eastern North America it has small red eyed, white flowers with many stamens and leaves that turn yellow, orange and red in Autumn.

It is also known as American lancewood, Canadian serviceberry, Common serviceberry, Currant-tree, Downy serviceberry, Eastern serviceberry, *Felsenbirne* (German), Grape-pear, *Häggmispel* (Swedish), Indian cherry, Indian pear, Indian wild pear, Juice plum, Juneberry, May-cherry, *Muchovník kanadský* (Czech, Slovak), Oblong-leaf juneberry, Oblong-leaf serviceberry, Sarvice, Serviceberry, Services, Servicetree, Shadberry, Shadblow serviceberry, Shadbush, Shadbush serviceberry, Shadflower, Shad tree, Showy medlar, Snowy mespilus, Sugar plum, Swamp shadbush, Swamp sugar-pear, Thicket serviceberry, and Wild currant.

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

*Canadensis* means ‘of or from Canada or north-eastern North America’.

The names containing Shad arose because the blossom appears in mid-Spring when the shad of the eastern North American seaboard come in from the sea and swim up river to spawn.

For the North American Indian Iroquois tribe the emergence of the shrub’s blossom was a sign that the corn must be planted.

The small thickly blue-frosted, red or purplish-black berries were eaten by the Iroquois especially. They not only ate them raw but also cooked them and sun- or fire-dried them. Apart from storing them for future use or taking the dried fruit with them on hunting expeditions, the Iroquois also made the dried fruit into little cakes, puréed them for sauces or added them as an ingredient in corn bread (*Zea*). The Chippewa tribe ate the raw fruit and dried them for storage too.

Use of shadblow as a medicine was common in several Indian tribes. For example the Chippewa used the root to treat dysentery and some female disorders, the Iroquois Indians prescribed both the fruit and an infusion of twigs for some childbirth problems, and the Cherokee tribe chose a bark infusion as a remedy for worms.

The fruit are said to have been popular with early European settlers who ate them in puddings and pies. Today the edible fruit can be eaten raw, dried, or cooked in jams, other preserves, and pies – and the berries have also been used to make stimulating drinks.

The very strong and hard, dark brown wood has been used for making tool handles and small implements. Like wood from downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) it has also been used for fishing rods when it has been referred to as ‘Lance wood’ too.

Birds enjoy eating the fruit.

Shadblow is cultivated as an ornamental plant.