

Juneberry

Amelanchier arborea, *A. laevis*, *A. alnifolia*



Juneberry (also known as serviceberry, Saskatoon berries, or Allegheny) refers to several similar species native to Aitkin County. These berries look like blueberries and can be eaten fresh or cooked into jellies, preserves, or baked goods. They're also great for wildlife: the early flowers attract pollinators, and rabbits, grouse, and songbirds use the bushes for cover. Deer will browse stems and twigs, and many bird species will eat the berries.

Height: 6' to 20'

Juneberries will grow several inches per year in the right conditions.

Planting environment:

Soil: Sandy, loam, silty, or slightly clayey soils

Soil moisture: Likes moist soils with good drainage; not wet

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun (needs >4 hours of sun/day)

Juneberries are pioneer species and naturally grow on bare soil left after wildfires—consider planting juneberries after a planned prescribed burn. Plant with 4' of space between plants and 10' to 12' spacing between rows of plants.



Maintenance:

Remove weeds near plantings for the first few years to ensure a good establishment. Limited pruning of dead, diseased, and broken branches in late winter/early spring can help fruit production. Juneberry will occasionally grow new stems from the root system—control these volunteer shoots if you want.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Roundheaded appletree borer
2. Fire blight

