

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. Leaves are 2"-5" long and finely serrated. ½" white flowers grow at branch tips in April-May, while ½" dark red, round fruit ripen in June. The berries are similar in appearance to blueberries, and may be eaten fresh, or cooked into jellies, preserves, or baked goods; the taste is reported as being similar to that of dark cherries. Pollinators are attracted to the early flowers, while rabbits, grouse, and songbirds utilize juneberry for cover. Deer will browse stems and twigs, and many bird species will eat the berries.



Height: 6' to 20'

Under favorable conditions, juneberries will grow several inches per year.

Planting environment:

Soil composition: Sandy, loam, clayey loam, silty clay; acidic to mildly alkaline

Soil moisture: Well-drained, not wet

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

Juneberries are pioneer species, and naturally grow on bare soil left after wildfires. Consider a controlled burn of land before planting juneberries. 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 good establishment. Limited pruning of dead, diseased, and broken branches in late winter/early spring may be helpful to maximize fruit production. Juneberry will occasionally sucker, or grow new stems from the root system, away from the main trunk. If undesirable, suckers can be controlled by mowing or cutting.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Roundheaded appletree borer
2. Fire blight

