

Amelanchier arborea

Downy Serviceberry

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Common in woodlands throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, this **native** provides seasonal interest from early spring blossoms through vivid fall color. Edible fruit is ready for picking early summer, but there will be competition with the 58 wildlife and 35 bird species that use this tree.



Tree	Shrub/Tree Forms, Flowers, Late Spring Fruit
Height: 15–25 feet	
Spread: 15–25 feet	
Bloom Color: White	
Characteristics	
Multistemmed, deciduous small tree/large shrub	
Buds and young, alternate leaves covered in down	
Racemes of fragrant, five-petaled flowers present before leaves for about a week from March to April	
Fleshy, berry-like pomes ripen red to deep purple	
Yellow or red autumn color	
Smooth, dappled bark splits and furrows as ages	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil, drier soil, shade, air pollution; deer seldom-to-occasionally severely damage	
Edible fruit harvested for pies and jams	
Early food source for wildlife; excellent for attracting native bees; larval host for Red-spotted Purple butterfly and numerous moth species	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> - Mimosa / Silk Tree
Light Requirements Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Cornus species</i> - Non-native Dogwoods
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Malus baccata, Malus floribunda & Malus hupehensis</i> - Siberian Crab Apple, Japanese Flowering Crab Apple & Chinese (Tea) Crabapple
To deter cedar-apple, -hawthorn, -quince rusts do not grow near <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> or prostrate junipers	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> - Princess Tree
Sunnier the site, more prolific the flowers/fruit	<i>Prunus avium & P. subhirtella</i> - Sweet & Higan Cherry
Remove root suckers to allow for greater growth	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> - Callery ('Bradford') Pear
Use near patios, in groups or woodland gardens	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–9	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills (top), Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and National Garden, U.S. Botanic Garden and by Mary Free (bottom), Quarry Shade Garden and from [Creating Inviting Habitats](#)



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