

Friends of the Arboretum



## ***Amelanchier arborea*--Downy serviceberry**

COMMON NAME: Downy Shadbush, Common Serviceberry, Juneberry

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Amelanchier* is the old French name for snowy mespilus (*Amelanchier ovalis*). This is a very similar European species.

FLOWER: Its five petaled white flowers in drooping clusters bloom in April to May.

SIZE: 15 to 25 feet

BEHAVIOR: It is short lived, rarely greater than 50 years.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: It grows in part shade or sun. It prefers average to dry soil.

NATURAL RANGE: Native to eastern North America. It is found along borders of woodlands and stream banks.

SPECIAL FEATURES: It will sucker and have a bushier appearance if it is not pruned. Its hard wood was used in tool handles in the past. The fruit is a reddish purple color containing multiple seeds. It is dry and tasteless. A similar species *Amelanchier laevis* has much more delicious fruit. The common name of Shadbush refers to the blooming occurring when shad are ascending rivers.

SUGGESTED CARE: Prune suckers if desired. Plants benefit from a mulch layer to conserve moisture and moderate soil temperatures. Tolerates a wide range of conditions.