PLANT FACT SHEET

Pyrus canadensis (L.) Farw.

GENUS *Pyrus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Serviceberry, Juneberry, Shadblow serviceberry, Shad-bush, Sweet pear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten raw or cooked. They are stewed, dried, preserved, and used in pancakes, muffins, pies, sauces, jams, jellies and cakes.
The dried fruit are used like raisins.

DESCRIPTION

A small deciduous shrub or tree. It grows to 5-8 m high and spreads to 3 m across. It forms suckers. The stem is erect and slender. It can have several stems. The leaves are oval and sword shaped. Young leaves are very hairy. They turn red in autumn. The flowers are white and in drooping clusters. The fruit are small red berries about 7-10 mm across. They turn black on maturity. They are edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It suits light well drained acid soils. Plants are naturalised in Sweden. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

They are grown from ripened seed. It can be grown from seed, layering or suckers. Seed can take 18 months to germinate and layers can take 18 months to form roots.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees can yield 7 to 15 tonnes per hectare.

NOTES

There are about 25-30 Amelanchier species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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