

## **Serviceberry** *Amelanchier alnifolia*

**Distribution:** Serviceberry is a widespread species found abundantly at low to mid elevations.

**Growth:** Serviceberry is a small deciduous tree or upright shrub. It typically ranges from 6 to 15' tall with an approximately equal spread. It often spreads by underground runners, creating large thickets.

**Adaptability:** Serviceberry grows in a wide range of conditions. It tolerates soils that range from moist to dry and coarse to fine. It grows on sites that vary from full sun to shade, on terrain from level to steep. It often grows best in areas with over 12 inches of annual precipitation, good drainage, and moderate exposure.

**Comments:** Serviceberry has many uses as a conservation species. Its dense, spreading, rhizomatous root system provides good soil stabilization. It is also an excellent plant for enhancing wildlife habitat. The berries produced in late summer are a favorite food of animals including birds, rodents and bears. Serviceberry is also used as an ornamental. It produces masses of fragrant white flowers in late spring. It has historically been cultivated for berry production.

