

DOWNY SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier arborea (Michx. F.) Fern.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Shadbush, Juneberry, Shadblow.

FORM: A shrub or small tree 30-50 feet tall and 8-12" in diameter; with slender spreading branches forming a narrow rounded head.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, deciduous, oval to oblong or occasionally lance-shaped; 2-4" long, 1-2" wide; pointed at tip, notched at base; margin, finely saw-toothed; with woolly, soft, silvery hairs when young, especially underneath; with 11-17 straight veins on each side; dull yellow-green above, paler below; petiole, slender 1-2" long.

BARK: Thin, smooth, silvery gray to gray-brown when young; then turning nearly black and becoming scaly with age.

TWIGS: Red-brown; slender and occasionally somewhat zigzag; covered with white hairs when young, then becoming glabrous.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal buds, up to 3/4 long, conical, the scales overlapping, greenish brown to reddish brown in color; lateral buds similar but smaller.

FLOWERS: Perfect; 1 & 1/4 wide; with 5 narrow white petals; on slender stalks in terminal clusters; in spring before leaves.

FRUIT: A nearly globular, reddish-purple, dry pome up to 1/2 in diameter; like a small apple; edible but mostly dry and tasteless; with several seeds; appears in early summer.

HABITAT: Found most commonly on moist soils in mixed upland hardwood forest stands; also found on some drier hillside and ridge sites as well as at sandy loam riverbanks and swamps.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Showy white blossoms are some of the first signs of spring on upland sites taking place at about the time of red maple seed production and shad spawning activity.

WOOD: Dried wood is very tough and durable.

USES: Landscaping, firewood. Historical uses: tool handles.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Audubon field guide shows statewide.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch | 7. A fruiting branch |
| 2. Diagram of a flower | 8. Vertical section of fruit |
| 3. Vertical section of a flower | 9. Cross section of fruit |
| 4. Front and rear view of a flower | 10. A seed, enlarged |
| 5. Cross section of an ovary | 11. An embryo |
| 6. An ovule, much magnified
branchlet | 12. End of winter |



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