**Amelanchier x grandiflora**  
**Apple Serviceberry**¹

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**INTRODUCTION**

Apple Serviceberry is a hybrid between *Amelanchier canadensis* and *Amelanchier laevis* that grows 15 to 25 feet tall (Fig. 1). Multiple stems are upright and highly branched forming a dense shrub, or if properly pruned in the nursery, a small tree. It is superior to either species in that it suckers less and is adapted to a wide range of soils, and tolerates some drought. The main ornamental feature is the white flowers that are larger than those of other amelanchiers. The flowers are borne in early spring and are at first tinged with pink but later fade to white. The young leaves are purplish and the fall color is yellow to orange. Edible fruit attracts birds. Well-adapted for planting beneath power lines due to its small size.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** Amelanchier x grandiflora  
**Pronunciation:** am-meh-LANG-kee-er x gran-dih-FLOR-uh  
**Common name(s):** Apple Serviceberry  
**Family:** Rosaceae  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 7 (Fig. 2)  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; specimen; residential street tree  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**DESCRIPTION**

**Height:** 15 to 25 feet  
**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette  
**Crown shape:** upright; vase shape  
**Crown density:** moderate  
**Growth rate:** slow  
**Texture:** fine

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**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)
**Leaf type:** simple
**Leaf margin:** serrate
**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); oblong
**Leaf venation:** pinnate
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches; less than 2 inches
**Leaf color:** green
**Fall color:** orange; red; yellow
**Fall characteristic:** showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white
**Flower characteristics:** spring flowering; very showy

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** round
**Fruit length:** < .5 inch
**Fruit covering:** fleshy
**Fruit color:** red

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; suited for human consumption; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
**Breakage:** resistant
**Current year twig color:** brown
**Current year twig thickness:** thin

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun
**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained
**Drought tolerance:** moderate
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate
Soil salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time
Ozone sensitivity: tolerant
Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

USE AND MANAGEMENT

‘Cumulus’ - is moderately columnar, may sucker at the root collar; ‘Robin Hill’ has an upright habit, 20 to 25 feet tall, sensitive to drought; ‘Autumn Brilliance’ is supposedly resistant to leaf spot.

Pests

Cambium miners cause concern when noticed but are not very damaging to the tree. The mines can extend from a twig all the way down to the roots. The mines are light colored lines in the bark. No controls are suggested.

A leaf miner will mine leaves, particularly the lower half of the leaf. The mines are irregular in shape.

The leaves of amelanchier are skeletonized by at least two insects. The first insect forms small cocoons on the undersides of leaves. Skeletonized leaves look as though they have windows in them after the insects scrape tissue off the top and bottom of the leaves. The second insect is the larva of the pear sawfly. The larvae are black to greenish black and look slimy. Adult sawflies lay eggs in May and June and again in August. Heavily skeletonized leaves drop off.

Several borers attack amelanchier. Healthy trees are considered less susceptible so regular fertilization and watering during dry spells will help prevent borer attacks.

Spider mites will feed on amelanchier. These insects are hard to detect as they are so small. The main symptom of mite injury is the loss of green leaf coloration. If the infestation is heavy, very fine webbing may be seen. Horticultural oil sprays help control mite infestations.

Aphids of several types suck juices from amelanchier. Heavy infestations cause distortion of the foliage and new growth, and deposit large amounts of sticky honeydew on lower foliage. Black sooty mold will grow on the honeydew.

Diseases

Witches broom, also called black mildew, infects the growing point causing the formation of many stems. The cluster of stems is called the witches broom. Another symptom is a black fungal growth, coating the undersides of the leaves. The damage to
the tree is usually not serious and the brooms can be
pruned off. No chemical controls are suggested.

Leaf blight can cause leaf drop when a severe
infection occurs. The disease causes small purple
spots on the leaves. The spots enlarge and turn brown,
later a small black dot will be seen in the center of the
spot. Large numbers of spots cause infected leaves to
drop.

Fire blight is characterized by the sudden wilting
and death of branch tips. The blossoms wilt, blacken
and hang on the twig. The bark is shriveled and has
small bumps or blisters on it. Sometimes gum ooze
out of the infected area and a crack forms between the
diseased and healthy bark. Control with chemicals is
difficult. Diseased branches should be pruned out.
Make the cut at least four inches beyond the diseased
area. Disinfect pruning tools with bleach between
cuts. Fertilizing heavily with nitrogen increases
susceptibility to fire blight.

Powdery mildews of several types cause white
powdery growth on the leaves of amelanchier. Late in
the season no controls may be needed.

Fruit rot be a problem in wet weather. The fruits
are often eaten by birds so may not be around long
enough to become diseased.

Cedar rusts can be troublesome.