

Newport Germplasm Saskatoon Serviceberry

Scientific Name: *Amelanchier alnifolia*(Nutt.) Nutt. ex Roemer var. *alnifolia*

Common Name: Saskatoon Serviceberry

Release Name: Newport Germplasm

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service,

Release Date: 2000, Public Release

COLD HARDINESS ZONE (USDA, 1990): 5a,5b,6a and 6b.

ORIGIN: Newport Germplasm Saskatoon serviceberry is a small deciduous shrub originating from native plants growing near Newport, Washington in Pend Oreille county. Elevation at the site was 2130 feet and Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): E-44 (Northern Rocky Mountain Valleys).

DESCRIPTION: Leaves are simple, alternate, stalked, with edges usually saw-toothed above the middle. Flowers are white racemes. Berries are dark purplish, globe-shaped about 1/4 - 3/8 inch in diameter. Newport Germplasm is a low-growing, bushy shrub. This is one of the lower growing materials selected. Plants grew to 4.6 feet high and 3.4 feet wide at Pullman, WA in 10 growing seasons. Plants produced fruit in the 4th year at Pullman, WA. Newport Germplasm produces good fruit crops at Pullman, WA.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: No particular problems were noted with disease or pests.

SEED PRODUCTION: Propagation is usually done by seed sown in fall. Cold/moist stratification at 40 degrees F. is necessary if natural stratification outdoors is not done.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Saskatoon serviceberry is found in a variety of conditions from dry, rocky slopes in full sun or in partial shade of coniferous timber. It is also found on moist, deep fertile soils forming an underbrush in aspen and lodgepole pine. It is most common on the upper limits of the Ponderosa pine zone. It is among the more valuable browse plants in the West due to its wide distribution, palatability and ready availability to livestock. It is also relished by various wildlife including birds, deer and elk. It withstands close grazing and fire remarkably well. Minimum effective precipitation: 14 inches. Plants should be protected from deer if seed harvest is desired. Plants with adequate moisture can produce abundant fruit. Plants bloom May 12, fruit matures July 24 and plants are dormant October 17 on average at Pullman, WA.

CONSERVATION USES: Intended uses include riparian area restoration in the capillary and upland areas, wildlife habitat improvement and native landscaping. Other

uses include shelterbelts and roadside beautification. Its primary intended area of use includes Major Land Resource Areas E-44 and E-43 (Northern Rocky Mountains) with secondary use in MLRA B-9 (Palouse and Nez Perce Prairies).

AVAILABILITY: For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.