Shadblow Serviceberry

Amelanchier canadensis

Shadblow serviceberry (pronounced 'sarvis berry' in some areas) is a multi-stemmed, small understory tree or large shrub. It is native to much of the eastern U.S and into parts of Canada. Growing 15 to 30 feet tall, Shadblow is a deciduous, early-flowering specimen producing edible berries and nice fall color. It's an excellent addition to the native plant garden, especially in locations where dark or shaded backdrops highlight the form of this serviceberry. The common name serviceberry has roots in both Ozark and Appalachian folklore, which cited the tree's early blooming as a significant landmark toward Spring. For some it meant the ground was thawed enough to where a "service" could be done for the dead; for others, it meant the rural roads were again passable for traveling preachers bringing religious services. Known in some areas as shadbush, this connected the timing of the bloom with the habits of the shad fish—a time when they would swim upriver to spawn.

Characteristics

Height: 15-30' average at maturity
Width: 15-20'
Identification: Showy 5-petaled, slightly fragrant, white flowers in drooping clusters appear in April. Flowers give way to small, round, green berries that turn red and then mature to dark purple-black in early summer. Deciduous leaves are finely toothed, elliptic, and 1-3" long, turning orange-red in autumn.

Benefits

Food! Edible berries resembling blueberries in size and color may be used in jams, jellies, and pies. Nice large shrub for the residential landscape, especially when dark or shaded backdrops highlight its form, flowers, and fall foliage. Benefits birds, native bees, and other wildlife.

Growing Conditions

Distance from Utility Line: 10ft minimum
Native Habitat: Wood borders; moist, upland woods. Also tolerates clay soil.
Water: Medium water use
Sun Light: Shade to full sun

Images and content credit: missouribotanicalgarden.org, wildflower.org, plants.usda.gov, Field Guide to Trees of North America

How to Plant Containerized Trees

These instructions are for planting containerized trees or shrubs.

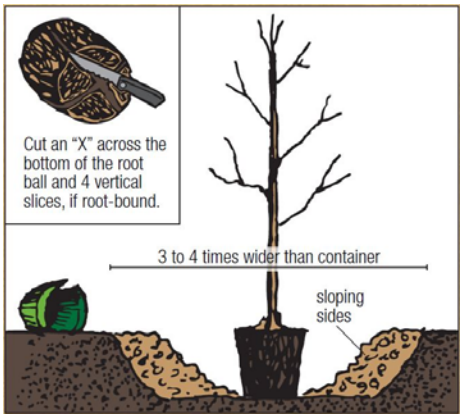
Before digging, call Arkansas One Call at 811 or 800-482-8998 to verify you've chosen a safe location.

To reduce summer cooling costs, plant large deciduous shade trees on the east, west, or southwest sides of your home. Plant evergreens on the north or the side with prevailing winds.

1. Dig a hole 3 to 4 times wider than the container. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth.

2. Carefully remove the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge. Carefully slide the tree from the container. Don't yank the tree out of the container as this can separate the roots from the tree.

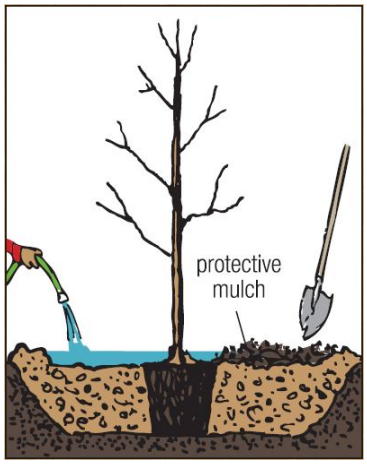
3. Sometimes containerized trees become root-bound or the roots look like they're about to circle the root ball. If your tree is like this, cut an *X* across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices along the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife.

4. 

Set the tree in the middle of the hole. Avoid planting the tree too deep. If the root collar sits below the top of the hole, compact some soil under the tree so that the root flare at the base of the trunk is slightly above ground level. Using some soil, secure the tree in a straight position, then fill and firmly pack the hole with the original soil, making sure there aren't any air pockets. Keep backfilling until the soil is just below the root collar.

5. Create a water-holding basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering. After the water has soaked in, spread protective mulch 2-4" deep and level in a 3-foot diameter area around the tree. Keep mulch 2" away from tree trunk.

6. The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist but not soggy. During dry weather, generously water the tree every 7 to 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline.



7. Remove any tags and labels from the tree as these will affect the tree as it grows. For future pruning info, visit http://www.arborday.org/trees/pruning/

8. Optional: If you like your new tree, send a photo of you and your tree to urban_forestry@ci.fayetteville.ar.us. We might put it on the City's website to help encourage others to plant as well.

Fertilizer? *Do not* use fertilizer, potting soil, or chemicals on your newly planted trees.

Watering: Keeping your trees watered is important during their first year. Keep the soil and mulch moist but not soggy. In dry weather, you should water generously every 7–10 days. Avoid watering so much that you see standing water.

The Urban Forestry Advisory Board encourages the use of native plants because they tend to grow more easily in local conditions and typically provide the most benefit to local birds, bees, butterflies, and other local wildlife. Search "Why Native Plants" to learn more. The Board also encourages residents to help eliminate invasive plants like privet, bush honeysuckle, and English ivy because they crowd out and inhibit the seasonal transition of native plants on which the local ecosystem depends.

Planting guide adapted from http://www.arborday.org/trees/planting/.

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arborday.org

For step by step videos and more planting info go to **arborday.org/HowToPlant**