OKANOGAN GERMPLASM SERVICEBERRY

Scientific Name: *Amelanchier alnifolia (Nutt.) Nutt. ex Roemer*
Common Name: Saskatoon serviceberry
Release Name: Okanogan 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: Okanogan Germplasm serviceberry is a deciduous shrub originating from native plants growing near Okanogan, Washington at an elevation of 1200 feet.

DESCRIPTION: Leaves are simple, alternate, stalked, with edges usually sawtoothed above the middle. Flowers are white racemes. Berries are dark purplish, globe-shaped, about 1/4 - 3/8 inch in diameter. Okanogan Germplasm's growth was faster and plants were taller than others evaluated. Okanogan Germplasm serviceberry grew to a height of 9.7 feet and 5.6 feet wide in 10 years at Pullman, WA - the fastest growing and tallest of 169 accessions evaluated. Average bloom date is April 23, fruit matures July 15 and plants are dormant October 20 at Pullman, WA. Plants produced fruit in the 4th year.

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

SEED PRODUCTION: Propagation is usually done by seed sown in the fall. Cold/moist stratification at 40 degrees F. is necessary if natural stratification outdoors is not done. Seed will be available in limited quantities for increase to growers and nurseries from the Pullman Plant Materials Center.

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: 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 recommended precipitation is 14 inches. Plants with adequate moisture can produce abundant fruit.

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 Area (MLRA)B-8 (Columbia Plateau) with secondary use in MLRA B-7 (Columbia Basin) and 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.