



## ***Amelanchier laevis 'Prince Charles'* 'Prince Charles' Allegheny Serviceberry<sup>1</sup>**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Allegheny Serviceberry grows in shade or partial shade as an understory tree (Fig. 1). The small tree probably grows 25 to 30 feet tall and spreads 15 to 20 feet. Multiple stems are upright and highly branched forming a dense shrub, or if properly pruned a small tree. The tree is short-lived, has a rapid growth rate, and can be used as a filler plant or to attract birds. The main ornamental feature is the white flowers borne in drooping clusters in mid spring before leaf emergence. The purplish-black edible berries are sweet and juicy but are soon eaten by birds. The fall color is orange-red. It is well-adapted for planting beneath power lines.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** *Amelanchier laevis 'Prince Charles'*

**Pronunciation:** am-meh-LANG-kee-er LEE-viss

**Common name(s):** 'Prince Charles' Allegheny Serviceberry

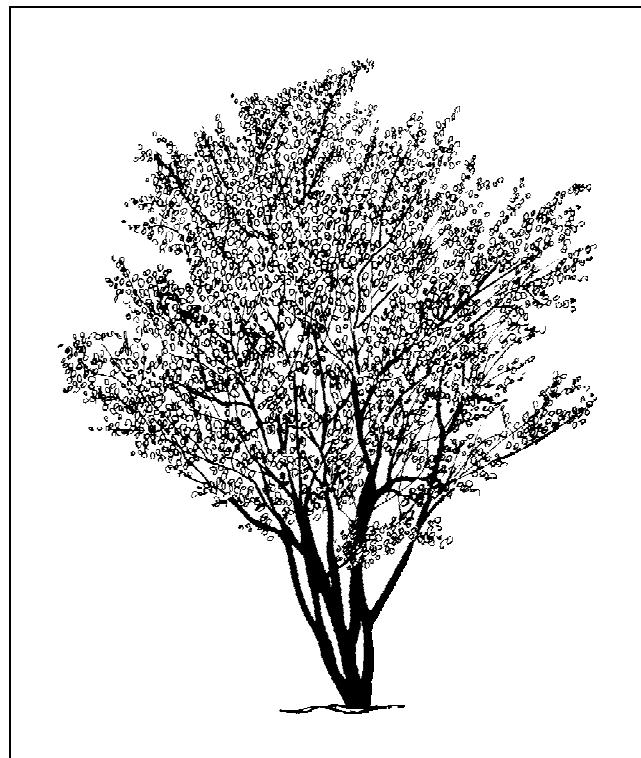
**Family:** Rosaceae

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 8 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** native to North America

**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; near a deck or patio; specimen

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree



**Figure 1.** Middle-aged 'Prince Charles' Allegheny Serviceberry.

### **DESCRIPTION**

**Height:** 25 to 30 feet

**Spread:** 15 to 20 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

**Crown shape:** upright; vase shape

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** medium

**Texture:** fine

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-76, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); oblong; ovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate; reticulate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches; less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** 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:** black; purple

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; suited for human consumption; no significant litter problem; 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; not particularly showy; 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; reddish

**Current year twig thickness:** thin

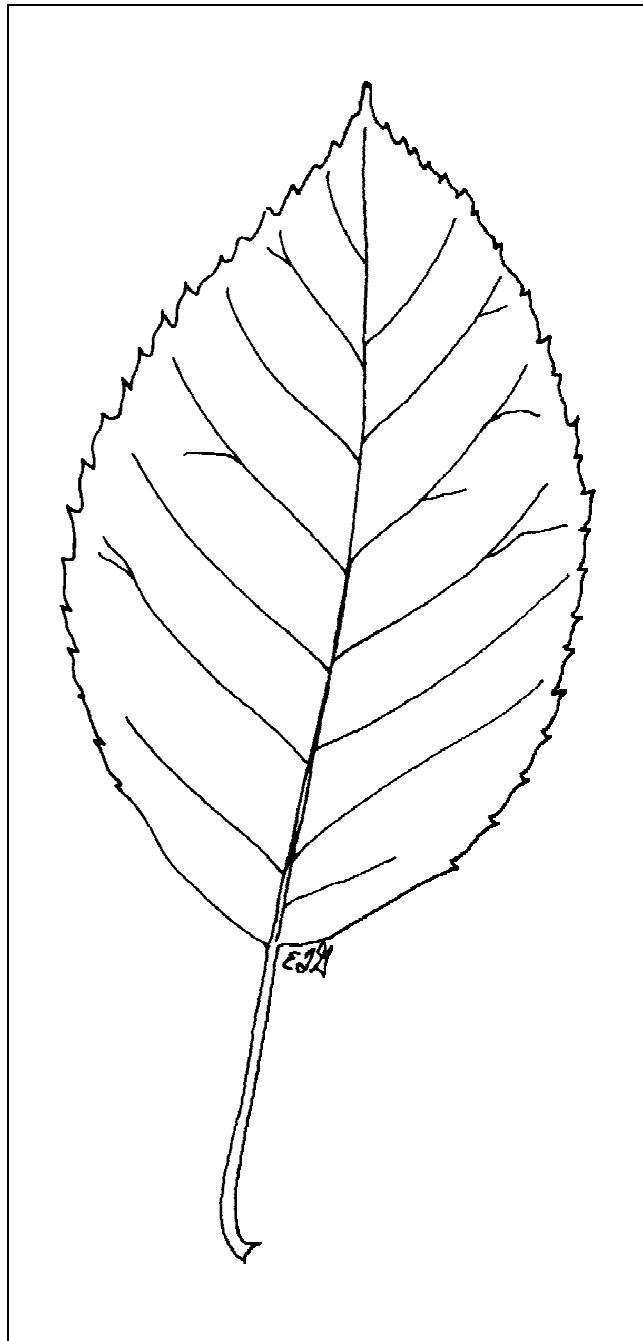
## Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate



**Figure 3.** Foliage of 'Prince Charles' Allegheny Serviceberry.

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

#### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

### 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 form 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 oozes 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.