

Canada Serviceberry

Amelanchier canadensis

Description

Canada Serviceberry is a large shrub or small tree, often with several trunks, which can grow to 25 feet (8 m) in height. The leaves are alternately arranged, simple, tending to be oblong in shape, usually 1 to 2½ inches (2.5-6 cm) in length and ½ to 1½ inches (1-4 cm) in width, toothed on the margins, more-or-less hairless at maturity, and with a bluntish tip. The white flowers, which appear in April and May, are grouped in a cluster containing several flowers. The individual flowers have five white petals that are about 3/8 inch (8-10 mm) in length. The edible fruit, which resembles a tiny apple, is dark purple or black at maturity, with the sepals tending erect or nearly so. Identification of this species must be done carefully, as the various species of serviceberry resemble each other closely and exhibit much variability.



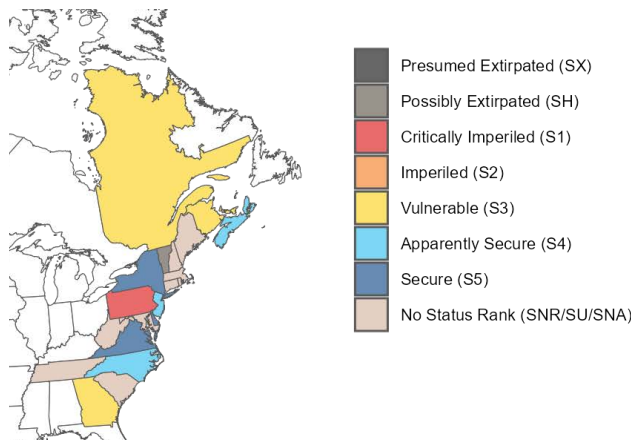
Photo source: B. Eugene Wofford, University of Tennessee Herbarium

Distribution & Habitat

Canada Serviceberry ranges from eastern Canada south into the Gulf Coast states, particularly along the coast. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically primarily from the southeastern counties. The species grows in swamps and wet thickets.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



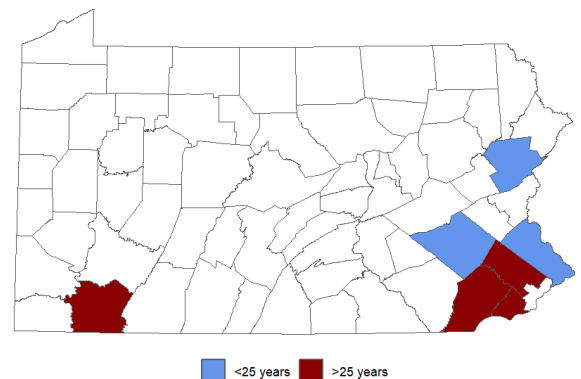
Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Canada Serviceberry to be a species of special concern, based on the few locations that have been recently confirmed and the small population sizes. It does not have a PA legal status, but has been assigned a PABS suggested rarity status of Endangered.

Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of Canada Serviceberry and its habitat may be enhanced by creating buffers and protecting the natural hydrology surrounding wetlands and controlling invasive species. Excessive deer browse may be a threat at some locations.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)



NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5T5 – Globally secure; **S1** – Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2025.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.