

JUNEBERRIES

The fruit of the juneberry resembles a reddish form of the blueberry. Generally there are two types available.

Amelanchier canadensis is the multiple stemmed shrub/tree that is primarily used as an ornamental because of its orange-purple fall foliage and its ease in growing under various conditions. They can reach heights of 20 feet. This species is native to the northeast and can grow moist and even in light shade. The fruits are delicious, eaten out of hand or sprinkled on cereal. It is the first tree to flower in the spring.

Amelanchier alnifolia grows very much like a high bush blueberry, producing a large bush 6-10 feet tall with multiple stems. *Alnifolia* can be challenging to grow in the northeast as it prefers alkaline soils. It does not consistently produce fruit on our climate.

Juneberries can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. They are extremely hardy and can tolerate high cold, winter winds with little or no damage. They do prefer a PH that is not too acidic (6.5-7). Full sunlight is best for maximum fruit production and since they are long lived, consider their location decades from now and that the site will still be in full sun then.

For row spacing 8-10 feet apart is adequate with 6-8 feet between plants. Once the plants come into bearing age and begin to sucker, annual pruning may be necessary to keep the branches tended, removing anything that is dead, leggy, or very old.

Mulching around the plants will help to suppress weeds. Also adequate water is a must for any fruit crop and consider water sources and systems when planting a patch for fruit production. Because juneberries are fairly disease free they are a good choice for the organic fruit grower.



Text by Effie Eifer – Fruit Drawings by Gabe Tempesta
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