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Sarvas Berry Tree

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Have you ever heard of a tree called Sarvas or Service, which grows in this area? I have one growing on a stony hillside in my yard, and am curious to know if the berries are medicinal. Thank you.

I had not heard of it until now. As always, when I want to find out something, I do research on the internet. I'll share with you what I found on "Serviceberries".

Serviceberries (Amelanchier species: utahensis or arborea): The common names are Downy Serviceberry, Shadblow, June-berry, Shadbush, Sarvis-tree. It is a woody, noninvasive tree, growing 15 to 25 foot high, from Maine to Florida, and from Iowa to Louisiana.

The leaves are oval shaped with a sharp pointed tip, a finely toothed margin, and measure 3-4 inches long. The white flowers are 1 ¼ inches wide, with five white petals in terminal clusters. They appear in April before the leaves. The berries are fleshy and measure about 1/3 inch in diameter with 10 small

seeds. They ripen to red/purple in June and July, and are excellent food for birds, bears and other wildlife. Humans eat the berries (which taste like a blueberry- only sweeter) fresh, or in pies, muffins and jam.

I could only find one reference on its medicinal properties: Crude extracts of *Amelanchier utahensis* are being studied for use as cancer therapy drugs. But, I found several good-sounding receipts:

Serviceberry Jam-

10 cups ripe serviceberries

½ cup water

¾ cup sugar per cup of pulp

6 ounces liquid pectin

Wash and stem berries - place in saucepan and crush. Add water and cook over medium heat for 5 minutes. Measure pulp - add sugar, return to pan (low heat) and cook for a few minutes, till sugar dissolves. Bring to boil- add pectin, then hold boil for 1 min. Remove from heat, skim off foam, pour into hot, sterilized jelly jars, seal.