Smokey Saskatoon

Amelanchier alnifolia 'Smokey'



Smokey Saskatoon in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: Juneberry

Description:

A choice and extremely hardy variety with beautiful white flowers in early spring and very sweet berries in June; extremely versatile shrub for edible landscapes; some suckering with age

Edible Qualities

Smokey Saskatoon is a large shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces small blue berries which are usually ready for picking from late spring to early summer. The berries have a sweet taste.

The berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Preserves



Smokey Saskatoon flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Features & Attributes

Smokey Saskatoon is bathed in stunning clusters of white flowers rising above the foliage from early to mid spring before the leaves. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The oval leaves turn an outstanding yellow in the fall. It features an abundance of magnificent blue berries in late spring.

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This is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage. This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Smokey Saskatoon is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Smokey Saskatoon will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 25 years. This is a self-pollinating variety, so it doesn't require a second plant nearby to set fruit.

This shrub is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated edibles garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.