

SIZE: Up to 2.5 m tall (usually shorter).
LEAVES: Green, oval to lance-shaped and with toothed leaf edges (serrate). They have silvery hairy undersides when they first emerge that later become dark green and hairless. The leaf stalks are smooth with no hairs, 10-15 mm long.
STEM: Pale grey, and spindly. Numerous erect stems arise from a horizontal underground stem (stolon) and can form a patch of upright stems up to 10 m across. Branches tend to occur toward the upper part of each stem.
FLOWERS: In groups of 7-10, ivory-coloured, and 4-5 mm long. The flowers have five petals that are narrow and spoon shaped. They branch off a smooth flower stalk 0.7-1.4 cm long. At least somewhere on the plant, the flowers may produce pollen on the petal, near the petal margin (andropetaly).
FRUITS: Juicy, berry-like, dark purple-blue, edible pomes that are 7.5-10 mm long.
NOTES: Shadbush species are in flower when the American Shad fish migrates up coastal rivers to spawn, hence the name “shadbush”.



Running Serviceberry

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Similar species: Shadbush species are difficult to tell apart, especially when they are not in flower. They can hybridize with one another, so puzzling intermediates might be found. Other Shadbush species in southwest NS include Mountain Shadbush (*A. bartramiana*), Downy Shadbush (*A. arborea*), Smooth Shadbush (*A. laevis*), Wiegand's Shadbush (*A. interior*), and Running Serviceberry (*A. spicata*). Visit <http://sbe.umaine.edu/amelanchier/> to view a key for these species.

Nantucket Shadbush

Amelanchier nantucketensis

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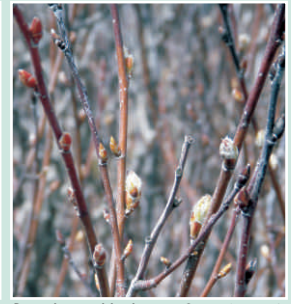
Nantucket Shadbush

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Flowers

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Branches and buds

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Habitat:

Dry habitats such as fields, disturbed areas and along roadsides. Also in meadows (such as at Peggy's Cove) and along forest edges and river shores.

Interesting point: Nantucket Shadbush has a specialized feature known as “andropetaly”. This means that some of the flowers have petals that bear pollen at their edges and this gives the petals a yellowish colour. It is the only shadbush species that does this and production of pollen in petals is highly unusual. Without these flowers, one cannot reliably separate this species from Running Serviceberry, which is common and might occur in the same habitat or even right next to it.