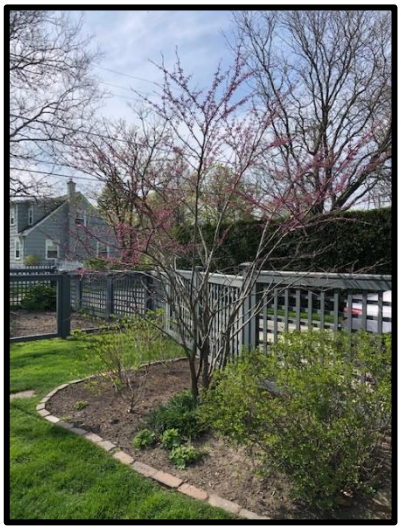
Go Green Wilmette Highlights - - The Serviceberry Tree & The RedBud



This week, as you walk in your neighborhood, see if you can find one of these two trees that are native to the United States. The serviceberry and eastern redbud are understory trees, both attaining heights of 15-25 feet.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* species) is typically a multi-stemmed shrub. The very ornamental perfect white 5-petalled flowers are found in nodding clusters (called racemes.) The leaves emerge folded in half often with a bronze or purplish color to them. When open, the leaves become a pretty summer green. Serviceberries are also known as Juneberries. In June, look for their blue-black edible fruits. Look quick! Birds, especially robins, catbirds, chickadees and cardinals, love serviceberries and will eat them all before you can!





The Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a low-branching tree with gracefully ascending branches. Tiny pea-like clusters of magenta buds are found all across the branches before the leaves emerge. The buds open to small purple-pink flowers. Delicate heart shaped leaves have a reddish-purple color when they emerge and gradually change to a glossy green in summer. Redbuds are in the Fabaceae or Pea family. In the fall, look for brown pods that look a lot like a peapod. Pods often remain on the tree over winter. Next spring, visit the Morton Arboretum where Eastern redbuds are planted all along Lake Marmo. Or see a weeping redbud (Lavender Twist Eastern Redbud) in the Circle Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

