

Mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*)

Mountain-ash are popular as city street trees due to the vibrant colors of the fruits in the fall, but are also a nice compliment in a yard or garden setting. A deciduous tree found in North America and Eastern Canada, they grow in many locations ranging from dry rocky areas to moist



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



The fruits of Mountain-ash trees, left, above, are a favorite for a variety of birds. These trees require excellent care to keep them disease-free.

woods. Known for their orange-red berries, the leaves are pinnately compound and alternate with sharp-toothed edges. The bark is smooth and grayish-brown in color.

These trees prefer full sun, growing to approximately 30 feet in height at maturity. The fruits are a favorite for a variety of birds that include bluebird, ruffed and blue grouse, waxwings, oriole, robins and thrushes.

Mountain-ash provides diversity in the landscape; however, it is often susceptible to fire blight, borers and a variety of other pests — particularly when stressed. Provide ample rooting space and regularly deep-water during the summer, because they do not do well with prolonged heat. As with all newly-acquired trees, remember that correct planting and long-term care is your best bet for protecting a tree from insects and disease.

For more tree care info: treesaregood.org/treecare/tree_planting.aspx

Photo by Deb Knecht, Northfield, MN