

Crabapple

Malus spp. (Family: Rosaceae)

Description: Crabapples are grown around the world, from North America to Europe and Asia. There are around 100-200 varieties of crabapples grown in nurseries in North America. They are popular for their spring flowers, summer fruit, and fall color.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zones 4 to 7.

Natural Habitat: North America, Europe, and Asia.

Mature Size: Height: 15-20', Spread: 12-20'

Form (Shape): Ranges between a low mound, an upright tree, and a pendulous tree.

Growth Rate: Medium.

Foliage: Alternate leaves that range between oval, ovate, and elliptical shapes. Leaves are usually slightly serrated.

Summer: Ranges from light green to dark green.

Autumn: Ranges between yellow, red, and purple.

Texture: Medium.

Flowers: Flower color ranges between white, pink, and red. All flowers are single, perfect and have 5 petals which are suborbicular to obovate. Flowers form in umbels or corymb-like racemes. Flowers have around 15-20 stamens and an inferior 3-5 celled ovary.

Fruit: Produces a pome that has a persistent or deciduous calyx. Comes in a range of colors between red, yellow, and green. Either 2" or less in diameter.

Light: Full sun.

Soil: Well-drained, moist, acidic (pH 5-6.5), heavy loam soils.

Propagation: Can be propagated through budding, grafting, softwood cuttings, and tissue culture. Seeds should be stratified for 2-3 months.

Failure Patterns: Failure is moderately common.

Disease and Insects: Prone to scab, fire blight, rust, leaf spot, and powdery mildew.

Landscape Use: Accent, specimen, or in groups.

Availability: Many cultivars available in retail nurseries.