

WASHINGTON HAWTHORN

Crataegus phaenopyrum (L. f.) Medik.

Synonyms: *Mespilus phaenopyrum* L. f.

Family: Rosaceae (rose)

FNAI Ranks: G4?/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FAC-+ FL-UPL



Guy Anglin

Field Description: Shrub or small tree to 30 feet tall with shiny twigs and slender, red thorns. **Leaves** to 2.5 inches long, alternate, simple, deciduous, lobed and toothed like a red maple leaf; teeth tipped with purple glands; veins end in points of teeth and lobes and also in sinuses between teeth. **Flowers** small, white with 5 rounded petals and about 20 stamens, in many-flowered clusters. **Fruit** round, bright red, with a ring around the top from fallen sepals.

Similar Species: Several haws have maple-like leaves - such as mayhaw (*Crataegus aestivalis*), yellow haw (*Crataegus flava*), and pretty haw (*Crataegus pulcherrima*) - but the leaf veins of these species end only in the tips of teeth or points of lobes, never in the sinuses between the lobes (magnification is required to see this).

Related Rare Species: See scrub plum (*Prunus geniculata*) in this guide.

Washington hawthorn

Crataegus phaenopyrum

Habitat: Moist to wet hammocks, floodplain forests and swamps.

Best Survey Season: Spring; April - May, fruits persist through the fall and winter; leaves may be identified until late fall.

Range-wide Distribution: PA west to MO, south to GA, FL, AL.

Conservation Status: A few populations are protected on the Apalachicola National Forest, but most are on private lands.

Protection and Management: Avoid logging floodplains and impacting stream hydrology. Eradicate exotic pest plants such as Japanese climbing fern and Chinese privet.

References: Anderson 1986, Coile 2000, Foote and Jones 1989, Godfrey 1988, Nelson 1996, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.