

# Hawthorns

## Genus Characteristics

**Leaves:** Leaves are small and leaf arrangement is whorled. Margins are serrate. Leaves can be lobed but not always.



**Fruit:** Small fruits develop through summer at the end of flowering. Developing fruits are called haws and look like rosehips. Number of seeds can indicate species, so if fruits are present, dissect them to count the seeds.



**Bark and Branches:** Hawthorns have thorns on branches and twigs. Thorns can range in size from half an inch long to upwards of 2 inches. Hawthorn bark is thin and reddish brown. It can appear ropy, which gives trees a twisted appearance. Bark often gets plated with age.



**Form:** Hawthorns are small trees and can appear shrubby. Crown is irregular and brushy. Hawthorns can be invasive. Varieties planted as ornamentals tend to be single-stemmed with a regular form. Naturalized specimens tend to be multistemmed and shrubby.





## Hawthorns

### *Crataegus monogyna*—Common hawthorn



### *Crataegus laevigata*—English hawthorn



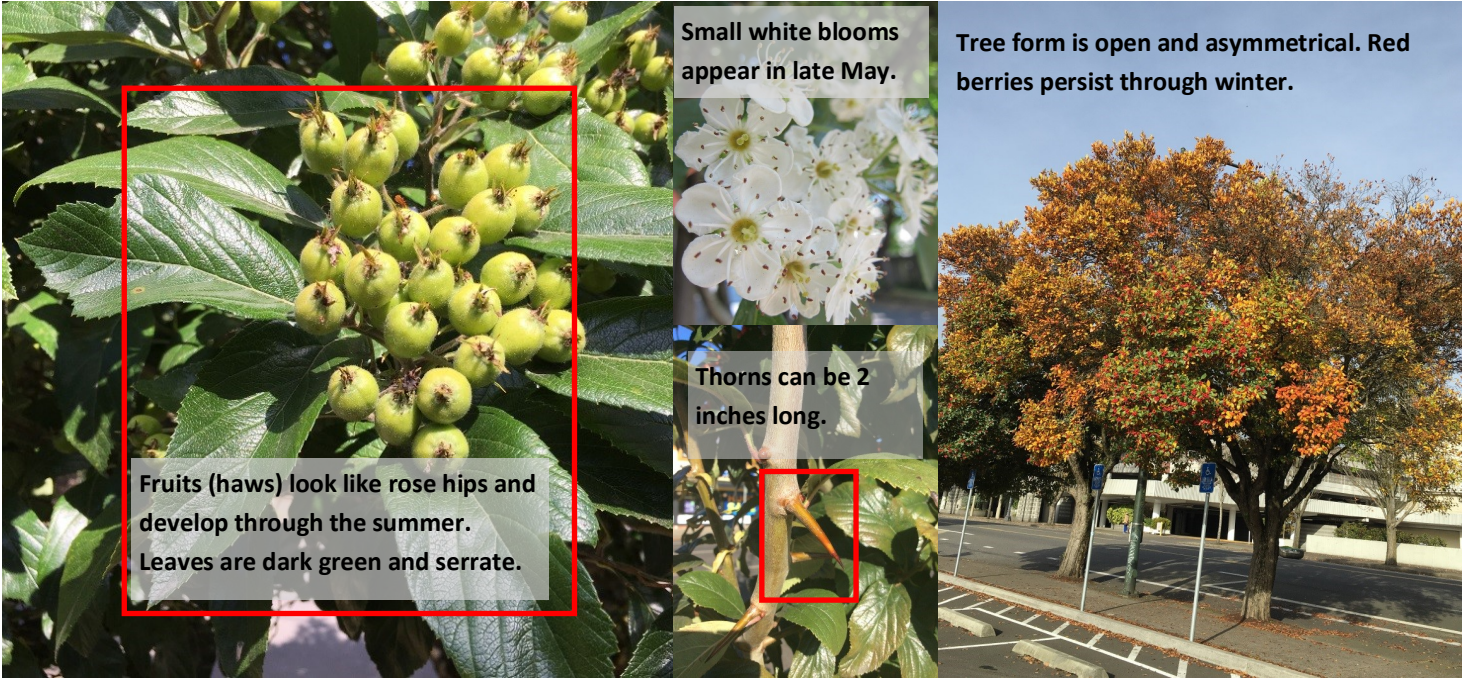
### *Crataegus* Hybrids and Cultivars



*C. laevigata* and *C. monogyna* look very similar and can hybridize with each other (*C. x media*). The surefire way to distinguish between the two is to dissect a fruit, if present. One seed is *C. monogyna*; two seeds is *C. laevigata*. If you aren't sure, take a sample! If Urban Forestry staff doesn't know, we'll ask the experts at Hoyt Arboretum.



*Crataegus x lavallei*—Lavelle hawthorn



Fruits (haws) look like rose hips and develop through the summer. Leaves are dark green and serrate.

Small white blooms appear in late May.



Thorns can be 2 inches long.



Tree form is open and asymmetrical. Red berries persist through winter.

*Crataegus phaenopyrum*—Washington hawthorn



*Crataegus phaenopyrum* *x lavallei*

Fruits are 0.25 in across and more tightly clustered than *C. x lavallei*.

Leaves are small with pointed lobes.

Washington Hawthorn Lavelle Hawthorn

Thorns are long (1-3 in) and slender.

Tree is small, oval, and tends to be twiggy. White smelly flowers bloom in June.