

FactSheet



Crabapple

Malus species

General

Family:	Rosaceae - Rose
Cultivar Availability:	Yes
Hardiness Zone:	3 - 9
Tree Type:	Broadleaf
Utah Native:	No

See also apple description and illustrations

Leaves: Similar to apple, but some species/cultivars have lobed leaves and undersides of leaves may or may not be hairy.

Growth

Growth Rate:	Medium
Mature Height:	Low
Longevity:	Medium
OK Under Powerlines:	Yes
Crown Shape:	Rounded

Twigs/buds: Twigs red-brown; somewhat woolly; characteristic sweet taste. Terminal bud woolly (particularly at tip), blunt; lateral buds similar but smaller; round.

Flowers/fruit: Flowers perfect; similar to apple; sometimes doubled (with extra sets of petals); cultivars available with white, pink, red, or purplish flowers. Fruit a red, yellow, orange, or green pome; mostly smaller than apple, 1/4" to 2" diameter, depending on cultivar.

Ornamental

Flowers:	Yes
Fruit:	No
Foliage:	No
Fall Color:	No
Bark:	No

Bark: Variable; often smooth early on; gray-brown, shiny, thin, and scaly on older trunks.

Tolerances

Shade:	Low
Salt:	High
Drought:	Medium
Poor Drainage:	Medium
Alkalinity:	High

Wood: Heartwood reddish-gray; sapwood light-red; darker when steamed; wild trees probably better than cultivated varieties; hard, difficult to work and split; easy to stain and polish; used to make furniture, toys, tool handles, canes,

Transplanting: High

and pianos.

General: Crabapples are a confusing group of trees from a horticultural or botanical standpoint. They consist of several species and hundreds of cultivars from all over the world. The most concise definition I have seen, by Michael Dirr, is that if the fruit is 2" in diameter or less it is a crabapple; if more than 2" it is an apple. Shade intolerant. Fruit and/or plant part can be nuisances; use fruitless varieties if possible. Sucker (sprout) growth can be a problem.

Landscape Use: Crabapples are extremely valuable from an ornamental standpoint, making excellent small to medium-sized landscape trees. They vary widely, however, in their disease resistance, ornamental characteristics, and size. For a very complete discussion of crabapples, see Dirr's 1990 Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. Also Kuhns' Trees of Utah book has a table on crabapples for Utah. Zones 3-9.

Cultivars: Numerous varieties.



Twig - (c) Rose Long



Crown in Spring, Butchart Gardens, BC - (c) Michael Kuhns



'Snowdrift' Crown - (c) Michael Kuhns



Malus sargentii Crown - (c) Michael Kuhns



'Sugar Tyme' Crown - (c) Michael Kuhns



'Harvest Gold' Crown, Fruit - (c) Michael Kuhns



Bonsai Crabapple, Weyerhauser, WA - (c) Michael Kuhns



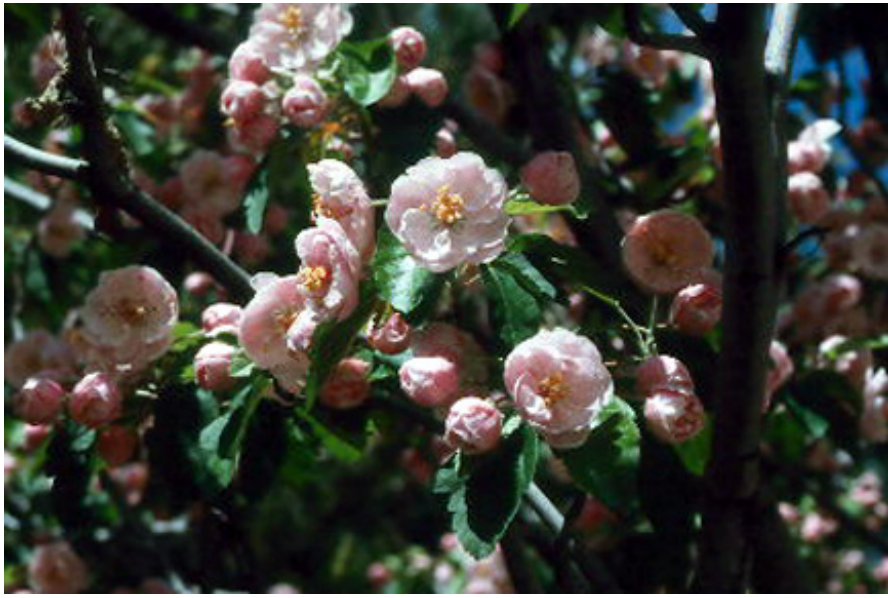
Leaves, Butchart Gardens, BC - (c) Michael Kuhns



M. ioensis foliage, 'Bechtel' - (c) Ryan Allred



M. ioensis Bark, Ogden Bot. Gardens - (c) Ryan Allred



'Bechtel' Flowers - (c) Michael Kuhns



Malus sargentii Flowers - (c) Michael Kuhns



'Pink Princess' Flowers - (c) Michael Kuhns



'Sugar Tyme' Fruit - (c) Michael Kuhns

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