



Cedar-Hawthorn Rust

Small Trees (15 - 30')
Deciduous
Native
Map #33

Downy Hawthorn (*Crataegus mollis*) Family: Rosaceae

Leaves: simple, densely fuzzy on the underside early in the growing season, the 2-4" leaves are broad-oval with small lobes and serrated margins. During the growing season, the underside of the leaves becomes smooth on all but the veins; fall - orange, scarlet, purplish but variable.

Buds: alternate; small, reddish, rounded or blunt.

Stems: the slightly stout, zig-zagging stems are a medium yellowish brown when young, developing into a light grayish color with 1-2" brown thorns. The thorns are more numerous on young trees and vigorous growth. The thorns are only sparsely found on mature trees.

Bark: The bark is an ineffective scaly gray with an orange-brown undercast.

Flowers: A beautiful plant in flower, this species produces 1"-diameter white flowers with yellow anthers, appearing in 3 - 4" diameter clusters in late April or early May; unpleasant fragrance.

Fruits: Appearing in late August, the 1/2 - 1" diameter pome-like red drupes fall quickly, their large size posing a maintenance problem.

Habit: Rounded becoming wide-spreading with horizontal branching.

Culture: Although a beautiful specimen, it is quite susceptible to cedar-hawthorn rust which often defoliates the tree by August. It is therefore best reserved for naturalizing.

Cultivars:

none but several other species and cultivars are available.

Miscellaneous: Named for its pubescent leaf surfaces, the downy hawthorn is the largest of the hawthorns. Provides cover and nesting sites for birds and fruit for various wildlife.

Related species: *C. crus-galli* - Cockspur H. - glossy dark green, unlobed leaves, curved thorns 1—3" long (cv. 'Inermis' is thornless); great horizontal branching habit.

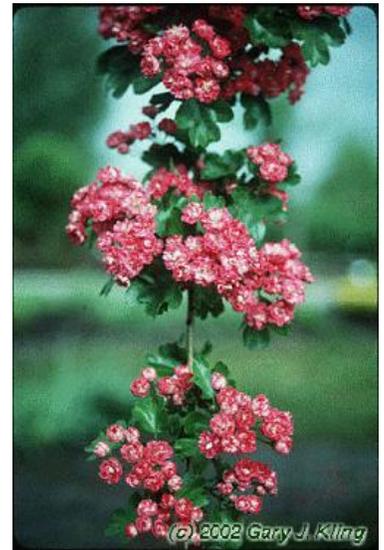
C. viridis 'Winter King' - The best of the cultivated hawthorns for bark display, this species has a light to medium gray scaly bark that chips off to reveal patches of orange-brown. Although it is a subtle effect, it does add interest to the plant. *C. phaenopyrum* - Washington H. - Known for its excellent long-persisting red fruit display, the Washington hawthorn is a small to medium rounded tree that also has good, foliage, flowers and fall color. *C. laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet' - Paul's Scarlet English H. - Selected for its double pinkish red flowers, this vase-shaped cultivar is widely used in Europe. It is seen in the US, however its usage is greatly limited by its susceptibility to leaf blight. *C. x lavalleyi* - Lavalley H. - This rust-free hawthorn has nice glossy foliage, showy white flowers, orange-red speckled fruits, sometimes excellent orange-red fall color and an irregular oval habit, making it an interesting addition to the landscape.



(c) 2002 Gary J. Kling



Cockspur H.



(c) 2002 Gary J. Kling

Paul's Scarlet H.—*C. laevigata*



(c) 2002 Gary J. Kling



Washington H.—*C. phaenopyrum*



(c) 2002 Gary J. Kling



(c) 2002 Gary J. Kling

'Winter King' Hawthorn

Credits: Photos from: www.midwestlandscapeplants.org and various other .edu websites unless noted. Text from: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; www.midwestlandscapeplants.org; and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.