



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.



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Paul's Scarlet H.—*C. laevigata*



Cockspur H.



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Washington H.—*C. phaenopyrum*



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'Winter King' Hawthorn

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