PLANT FACT SHEET

Crataegus opaca Hook. & Arn.

GENUS *Crataegus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Mayhaw, Apple haw, River-flat hawthorn, Western mayhaw

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are used for preserves and jellies.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It has a reasonably tall trunk. The crown is rounded. The tree is 9 m high. The trunk is 20 cm across. The bark is dark reddish-brown and cracked and scaly. The leaves are 5-6 cm long and 1.2-2.5 cm wide. They are oval but narrow from the middle to the tip. There are fine teeth along the edge. The leaves are covered with grey hairs when young. They are dark green above and with rusty hairs underneath. The flowers are 2.5 cm wide and with 5 white petals. The fruit are 15 mm across and round and shiny red. They have pale dots. They are slightly sour and edible.

HABITAT

Temperate. They grow in mature stands in wet soils of riverbanks.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seed need cold treatment. Plants can also be grafted.

NOTES

There are 200 or more Crataegus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/8f4bf8eb-ec0d-46b9-8e4c-a872b6ec3eea