PLANT FACT SHEET

Crataegus monogyna Jacq.

GENUS *Crataegus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES English Hawthorn, May Thorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Flowers, Leaves - tea, Seeds

The fruit can be eaten raw or made into jellies which are rich in Vitamin C. They are also ground into flour. The ripe fruit are eaten fresh.
The young leaves are added to tossed salads.
The young buds are used in spring puddings.
The flowers are mixed with sugar and brandy and made into a liqueur. They are also used in syrups and sweet puddings.
Dried leaves are used for tea.

DESCRIPTION

A small deciduous tree. It can grow to 9-14 m tall. The bark is greyish-brown with many small scales. The leaves are alternate. They are 2-3 cm long. The leaves have 5-7 jagged lobes. They turn yellow-brown in autumn. There are a pair of leafy growths near the base of each leaf. The thorns are short 1-2 cm. They are grey and straight. The flowers are single and red, pink or white. They have a scent. The fruit are small and red. It has a single style and fruit stone. The fruit are 6-8 mm across.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is native to Europe. In Chile it grows from sea level to 2,000 m altitude. It grows in areas with regular rain. It grows in full sun. It grows in the Sahara. It suits hardiness zones 4-9. It can tolerate frost and snow. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seed need cold treatment before they will germinate. Plants can also be grafted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing.

NOTES

There are 200 or more Crataegus species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

REFERENCES

Abbet, C., et al, 2014, Ethnobotanical survey on wild alpine food plants in Lower and Central Valais (Switzerland). Journal of Ethnopharmacology 151 (2014) 624–634

Ahmad, S. A. & Askari, A. A., 2015, Ethnobotany of the Hawraman Region of Kurdistan Iraq. Harvard Papers in Botany, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2015, pp. 85–89

Akbulut, S., 2022, Importance of edible wild plants in world food security: The case of Turkey. Int J Agric Sc Food Technol 8(3): 209-213.

Aldhmoun, M., et al, 2025, Old Plants for New Food Products? The Diachronic Human Ecology of Wild Herbs in the Western Alps. Plants 2025, 14, 122.

Alrhmoun,M., et al, 2025, Diachronic changes in local food heritage: the ethnobiology of wild foods in central Tuscany. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine (2025) 21:48

Alrhmoun, M., et al, 2026, Ecological fingerprints of mountain migration in wild food plants of North Macedonian and other Balkan Gorani. Discover Food (2026) 6:189

Ari, S., et al, 2015, Ethnobotanical survey of plants used in Afyonkarahisar-Turkey. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 11:84

Benitez, G., et al, 2023, Wild Edible Plants of Andalusia: Traditional Uses and Potential of Eating Wild in a Highly Diverse Region. Plants 2023, 12, 1218 p 24

Blamey, M and Grey-Wilson, C., 2005, Wild flowers of the Mediterranean. A & C Black London. p 76

Blanco-Salas, J., et al, 2019, Wild Plants Potentially Used in Human Food in the Protected Area "Sierra Grande de Hornachos" of Extremadura (Spain). Sustainability 2019, 11, 456

Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 295

Bonet, M. A. & Valles, J., 2002, Use of non-crop food vascular plants in Montseny biosphere reserve (Catalonia, Iberian Peninsula). International Journal of Food Sciences and Nutrition (2002) 53, 225–248

Boudraa, S. et al, 2010, Mineral and vitamin composition of fruits of five underexploited species in Algeria: Fruits. Vol. 65:75-84

Bremness, L., 1994, Herbs. Collins Eyewitness Handbooks. Harper Collins. p 100

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 313

Cerne, M., 1992, Wild Plants from Slovenia used as Vegetables. Acta Horticulturae 318

Ciocarlan, N. & Ghendov, V., 2015, Ethnobotanical and Ecological Studies of Wild Edible Plants from Bugeac Steppe, Republic of Moldova. Journal of EcoAgriTourism. Cailta terra Vol. 11(2):

Coombes, A.J., 2000, Trees. Dorling Kindersley Handbooks. p 243

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 433

Curtis, W.M., 1956, The Students Flora of Tasmania Vol 1 p 175

Dashorst, G.R.M., and Jessop, J.P., 1998, Plants of the Adelaide Plains & Hills. Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and State Herbarium. p 74

Della, A., et al, 2006, An ethnobotanical survey of wild edible plants of Paphos and Larnaca countryside of Cyprus. J. Ethnobiol. Ethnomed. 2:34

Denes, A., et al, 2012, Wild plants used for food by Hungarian ethnic groups living in the Carpathian Basin. Acta Societatis Botanicorum Poloniae 81 (4): 381-396

Di Tizio, A., et al, 2012, Traditional food and herbal uses of wild plants in the ancient South-Slavic diaspora of Mundimitar/ Montemitro (Southern Italy). Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine 8:21

Dogan, A. & Tuzlaci, E., 2015, Wild Edible Plants of Pertek (Tunceli-Turkey). Marmara Pharmaceutical Journal 19: 126-135

Dogan, Y., & Nedelcheva, A., 2015, Wild plants from open markets on both sides of the Bulgarian-Turkish border. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. Vol. 14(3): 351-358

Dolina, K. & Luczaj, L., 2014, Wild food plants used on the Dubrovnik coast (south-eastern Croatia) Acta Soc Bot Pol 83(3):175–181

Egea, I., et al., 2010, Six Edible Wild fruits as potential Antioxidant Additives or Nutritional Supplements. Plant Foods for Human Nutrition. 65:121-129

Ertug, F., 2000, An Ethnobotanical Study in Central Anatolia (Turkey). Economic Botany Vol. 54. No. 2. pp. 155-182

Ertug, F., 2004, Wild Edible Plants of the Bodrum Area. (Mugla, Turkey). Turk. J. Bot. 28 (2004): 161-174

Ertug, F, Yenen Bitkiler. Resimli Türkiye Florası -I- Flora of Turkey - Ethnobotany supplement

Etherington, K., & Imwold, D., (Eds), 2001, Botanica's Trees & Shrubs. The illustrated A-Z of over 8500 trees and shrubs. Random House, Australia. p 240

Facciola, S., 1998, Cornucopia 2: a Source Book of Edible Plants. Kampong Publications, p 197

Farrar, J.L., 1995, Trees of the Northern United States and Canada. Iowa State University press/Ames p 393

Fl. austriac. 3:50, t. 292, fig. 1. 1775

Flowerdew, B., 2000, Complete Fruit Book. Kyle Cathie Ltd., London. p 180

Girard, N. J., 2020, Sustainable Foraging of Wild Edible Plants in Norway. A Biocultural Approach. M. Sc. thesis Norwegian University. p 135

Gonzalez, J. A., et al, 2011, The consumption of wild and semi-domesticated edible plants in the Arribes del Duero (Salamanca-Zamora, Spain): an ananalysis of traditional knowledge. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution 58:991-1006

Full reference list (60 more) at https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a02b7a90-af97-41ce-b860-e44e791d4653

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/a02b7a90-af97-41ce-b860-e44e791d4653