PLANT FACT SHEET

Crataegus laevigata (Poir.) DC.

GENUS *Crataegus* **FAMILY** Rosaceae

COMMON NAMES Midland hawthorn, English hawthorn

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Flowers

The fruit are eaten fresh and also used for jams.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 7.5-10 m tall. The trees are rounded and thorny. There are few thorns. The bark is grey and smooth. It cracks with age. The leaves are 5 cm long and across. They are oval. The leaves are glossy and mid green. They have shallow rounded lobes. The flowers are white or pink and occur in clusters. The fruit are round or oval and red. They are 2 cm long. Each fruit has 2 stones. The fruit are edible.

HABITAT

It is native to Europe. It grows in woods and hedgerows. It can grow in a range of soil types and pH values. It can tolerate wet soils as well as drought. Temperate. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. The seed need cold treatment. Plants can also be grafted. Semi-ripe cuttings can be dipped in rooting hormone and planted.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seedling trees take 5-8 years to start fruiting. A tree can yield 30-60 kg of fruit.

NOTES

There are 200 or more Crataegus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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