



Hawthorn
Crataegus spp.
 Rosaceae

Description

Hawthorn is an important tree in Celtic tradition though native species are found in North America as well. It is one of the trees a person is most likely to find fairies in. This is probably due to its ability to ward off predators with its large thorns which can reach 1.5-3" long! It is also considered bad luck to cut one of these trees down. They would even reroute roads because hawthorns were believed to be a meeting place of fairies. It could also be because the chemical, trimethylamine, in Hawthorn flowers and cut wood is also the same chemical found in decaying bodies so when a Hawthorn tree was felled, it would smell like death. Because of this, Hawthorn flowers were never allowed indoors, especially if someone was ill. However, teas made from the flowers, leaves, and berries of the tree are considered great for the heart, both literally and figuratively.

General Information

Zone: 3-9	Soil Texture: Clay, Loam, Sand	Fall Color: Yellow
Height: 15-50'	Soil pH: Acid-Alkaline	Bloom Color: White
Width: 5-20'	Exposure: Full Sun	Bloom Time: May-Early June
Habit: Umbrella, Spreading	Water Needs: Average	Fragrance: Yes
Growth Rate: 12-24" per year	Soil Drainage: Well-Drained	Fruit Color: Red
	Other: Deer	Fruiting Time: Late Summer-Fall
	Attributes: Resistant	Fruit Flavor: Edible
		Attracts: Bees, Butterflies, Birds, Small Mammals

Resources:

[Plants A to Z: Find Plant Names by Letter \(thespruce.com\)](http://thespruce.com)
[Find a Plant | NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](http://ncsu.edu)
[Trees and Plants | The Morton Arboretum](http://mortonarboretum.org)
[WSU PNW Plants](http://wsu.edu)

[The Tree Guide at arborday.org](http://arborday.org)
[Woody Plants Catalog | The UFOR Nursery & Lab \(um.edu\)](http://um.edu)
[Plant Finder \(missouribotanicalgarden.org\)](http://missouribotanicalgarden.org)
[N.D. Tree Handbook \(nds.edu\)](http://nds.edu)