

# Washington Hawthorn - *Crataegus phaenopyrum*

**Common Name(s):** Washington Hawthorn

**Cultivar(s):** Winter King

**Categories:** [Edible Plants](#), [Native Plants](#), [Trees](#)

**Comment:** *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, commonly called Washington hawthorn, is noted for its attractive flowers and foliage, bright red fruits and fall color. It is a small, low-branching, deciduous tree that typically grows 25-30' tall with a rounded crown. The fruit of the Washington hawthorn is sometimes called a haw. The word haw also means hedge, the hawthorn thus being a thorny hedge. Washington hawthorn is native from Virginia to Missouri, Arkansas, and Alabama. Washington hawthorn reportedly was first grown commercially near Washington, D.C. in the late 1700s, hence the common name. This plant has spike-like thorns (1-3"), is strong, and has horizontal branches. Its bark is gray. orange, scarlet, to purple fall foliage. It is the last hawthorn to flower and is also the most heat tolerant hawthorn.

**Seasons of Interest:** **Leaf:** Fall

**Blooms:** Summer

**Nut/Fruit/Seed:** Fall

**Wildlife Value:** Its fruit attracts birds.

**Insects, Diseases, or Other Plant Problems:** The Washington hawthorn shows good resistance to cedar-apple rust. Fire blight, fungal leaf spots, powdery mildew, cankers and apple scab are occasional problems. Insect pests include borers, caterpillars, lacebugs, leafminers, and scale.

**Height:** 25-30 ft.

**Flower:** The Washington Hawthorne has fragrant, 5-petaled, white flowers in clusters (corymbs) that bloom in late spring. The flowers are followed in fall by bright red 1/4" diameter globose fruits (pomes) that persist throughout the winter.

**Zones:** 3-8

**Habit:** Deciduous

**Site:** The Washington Hawthorne is best grown in moist but well-drained soils in full sun. It will tolerate light shade.

**Texture:** Medium to fine

**Form:** Dense; compact; upright, rounded crown

**Exposure:** Sun to partial shade; moist site

**Fruit:** White flowers in mid spring; bright red fruit that persists into the winter

**Width:** 20-25 ft.

**Growth Rate:** Rapid when young

**Leaf:** The thorny stems of the Washington Hawthorne are clad with shallowly lobed, serrate, glossy dark green leaves (to 2 1/2" long). The leaves turn attractive shades of orange and red in fall.

**Tags:** heat tolerant, deciduous, fall color, native, play, playground, fragrant, wildlife, thorns, children's garden, showy

