

Cockspur Hawthorn (*Crataegus crusgali*)

The Cockspur Hawthorn is a small, globular, deciduous tree with a short trunk, exfoliating bark, horizontal, thorny branches which sweep the ground, and thick, glossy foliage which turns bright orange or red in fall. The Hawthorn grows to about 20-35' tall and displays clusters of white flowers which are followed by small, red "apples," persistent until January.

The common and Latin species names both describe the numerous and extremely long spines, which are used as pins. The long spines and shiny dark green spoon-shaped leaves make this one of the most easily recognized hawthorns. Common and widespread, it has been planted for ornament and as a hedge since colonial times.

Hawthorns are generally tough small flowering trees, this particular species is native to this region, and makes for a good street tree locally.