

Crabapple (*Malus sylvestris*)

The Crabapple is a deciduous tree that is typically found growing in the wild in woods containing Oak trees and is a food source for many undomesticated animals. The scientific name *Malus sylvestris* means "forest apple". They can grow individually or in a small group along forest edges, thickets, hedgerows, and roadsides as well as in a variety of soils, including clay. They prefer a sunny location but will grow in partial shade. A sunny location with moist soil will provide the most fruits.

The Crabapple tree can grow to about 20 feet tall with an equal spread and are tough, but they are subject to a great many diseases and insects. Careful cultivar selection can help with some of the disease problems. The best thing about this tree is the showy flowers, but they are short lived.

Many species of *Malus* exist, but the *sylvestris* is the European species and has been used extensively in creating many of today's popular cultivars.