

HAWTHORN

Crataegus spp.

Hawthorn or thorn-apple occurs in Maine as a low spreading tree or shrub, rarely reaching a height of more than 15-18 feet. There are 31 different species found in the state. Hawthorns can usually be recognized by the small apple-like fruits and the thorns on the branches.

The **bark** is dark brown to ashy gray, somewhat scaly.

The **leaves** are alternate, doubly toothed, and usually somewhat lobed, thin and dark green.

The **flowers** appear about the first of June in flat, showy white clusters.



The **fruit** which is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter resembles a small apple. The flesh is thin and mealy and encloses from 1-5 rounded nutlets. It is used for jellies.

The **twigs** are slender, rigid, and usually armed with long thorns. They form a compact crown due to their zigzag method of growth.

The **wood** is heavy, hard, and close grained. It is used to some extent for handles and other small articles.