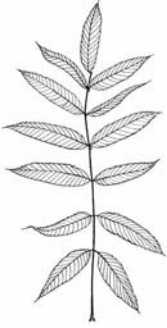


AMERICAN MOUNTAIN-ASH

Sorbus americana Marsh.

American mountain-ash or roundwood occurs statewide and is not a true ash, but is closely related to the apple. It rarely reaches over 20 feet in height. It is particularly common in mountainous regions and along the coast. The leaves are alternate, compound 13-17 inches long, tapered, finely toothed leaflets. The leaflets are 2-4



inches long, $\frac{5}{8}$ -1 inch wide, and without hairs.

The small creamy-white flowers are borne in cymes. The fruit is bright red, berry-like, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter. These remain on the tree late into the winter and are sometimes used as an astringent in medicine. The bud scales are hairless and sticky.

The pale brown wood has little

value because it is soft and weak.

SHOWY MOUNTAIN-ASH

Sorbus decora (Sarg.) Schneid.

Showy mountain-ash is most commonly found in northern and western parts of the state. It is not found in Lincoln and Kennebec Counties southward. It is usually better balanced in outline than the American mountain-ash and has a well-rounded crown. The leaves are alternate, compound, and differ from the preceding species in having leaflets which are only $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 inches long, and $\frac{5}{8}$ - $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide. The fruit is larger, up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, and matures later in the season. The outer bud scales are sticky; the inner scales are hairy.

EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN-ASH

Sorbus aucuparia L.

The European mountain-ash or rowan tree is native to Eurasia and is superior to the native species in the brilliancy of its fruit. The buds are silky and the leaflets somewhat hairy beneath. The fruit is large and abundant. The leaves are similar although more blunt than those of the American mountain-ash.