

## CERRO HAWTHORN

*Crataegus erythropoda* Ashe

Plant Symbol = CRER

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



Colorado Tree Coalition

### Uses

**Erosion Control:** Because cerro hawthorn tolerates a wide variety of sites, it can be planted to stabilize banks, for shelterbelts, and from wind and water erosion.

**Timber:** Although the wood is hard and strong, it has no commercial value except for tool handles and other small items.

**Wildlife:** It provides excellent cover and nesting sites for many smaller birds. Birds, rodents, and other smaller mammals eat the small fruits.

**Beautification:** Excellent for environmental plantings including small specimen tree and shrub border.

### Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status and wetland indicator values.

### Description

**General:** Rose Family (Rosaceae). It is a native shrub or small tree that grows to sixteen feet high, with dense spreading, glabrous branchlets and sharply thorny. Leaves are broadest near the base or middle, dark green, smooth at maturity, and sometimes shallowly lobed. Flowers are white and produced in clusters of five to ten flowers. Fruits are elongated, red to blackish in color.

**Distribution:** Cerro hawthorn grows from Washington to Wyoming, and south to Arizona and New Mexico.

### Adaptation

Although it will succeed in partial shade and different soil types, it grows best in full sunlight and well-drained loamy soils. Cerro hawthorn will tolerate wet soils before becoming drought tolerant once established. It is wind tolerant, making it a good tree species in shelterbelt planting. It is also tolerant of atmospheric pollution and performs well in urban settings.

### Establishment

**Propagation from Seed or Grafting:** Cerro hawthorn can be propagated by either seeds or grafting. Successful propagation using seeds requires acid scarification followed by warm stratification and prechilling. Seeds, whose numbers per lb. varies with species, are planted early in the fall, in drill rows eight to twelve inches apart and covered with 1/4 inch of soil. Seedlings must not be kept in the nursery longer than a year.

Containerized trees should be planted when they are no more than eight feet tall, in the fall or spring. Balled and burlapped trees should be planted in early spring.

Grafting on seedling stock of *Crataegus oxyacantha* or *Crataegus monogyna* is best carried out in the winter to early spring.

## Management

Pruning should be done in the winter or early spring in order to maintain a clear shoot leader on young trees and/or remove the weakest branches to allow more light to pass through. Suckers or stems arising from the roots should be removed when they become noticeable.

## Pest and Potential Problems

Although insects and diseases seldom affect cerro hawthorn, it is susceptible to fireblight, cedar-hawthorn rust, cedar-quince rust, leaf blight, fruit rot, and leaf spot.

## Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Consult you local nurseries to choose the right cultivar for your specific landscape. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) office for more information. Look in the phone book under "United States Government." The Natural Resources Conservation Service will be listed under the subheading "Department of Agriculture."

## References

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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