



HAWTHORN *Crataegus* spp. L.

Hawthorn, or thorn-apple, occurs in Maine as a low spreading tree or shrub that rarely reaches a height of more than 15–18 feet. There are approximately 22 different species found in the state. Hawthorns can usually be recognized by the small apple-like fruits and the thorns on the branches. In the past, hawthorns were planted as hedges in place of fencing.

The **bark** is dark brown to ashy gray and 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, mealy and encloses 1–5 rounded nutlets. It is used for jellies and bird food.

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



The fruit of the hawthorn is used for jellies and bird food.

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

