

# Malus coronaria

## Sweet Crabapple

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

This native\* member of the Rose Family has four-season interest from showy, fragrant spring blooms to a distinctive winter silhouette. It has high wildlife value, attracting a wide variety of pollinators, serving as the host plant to many Lepidoptera, and providing support to birds.



Tree	Tree, Flowers, Fruit
Height: 15–30 feet	
Spread: 15–30 feet	
Bloom Color: Pink, white	
Characteristics	
Small, densely branched, <a href="#">deciduous</a> tree with a short trunk and broad, irregular crown	
<a href="#">Alternate</a> , <a href="#">ovate</a> , coarsely-toothed, 1½–3”-long leaves	
<a href="#">Cymes</a> of 2–6, fragrant, 5- <a href="#">petaled</a> , pink-fading-to-white flowers in April and May	
Small, round green <a href="#">pomes</a> mature to yellow in fall and <a href="#">persist</a> into winter	
Spreads by clonal offsets from runners	
Attributes	
Susceptible to numerous pests, like <a href="#">Eastern Tent Caterpillar</a> , and diseases, like cedar-apple <a href="#">rust</a> ; <a href="#">deer</a> occasionally to frequently severely damage	
Bitter fruit can be made into preserves and cider	
Attracts many insects to flowers; provides nesting, cover, and food for birds; <a href="#">larval</a> host to ~264 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a> including Red-spotted Purple, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, and many moths	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Well-drained	<a href="#">Malus hupehensis</a> , <a href="#">M. floribunda</a> , <a href="#">M. baccata</a> - Chinese, Japanese & Siberian Crabapples
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun	
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Moist	<a href="#">Pyrus calleryana</a> - Callery Pear
Prune by mid-June after blooms fade	
Provide good air circulation and plant away from <i>Juniperus</i> spp. to prevent foliar and fruit diseases	
Use as a specimen, screen, or espalier	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is <a href="#">native</a> to DC and rare to historical in DE. It has been reported only in Howard and Prince George’s counties in MD. It is present throughout PA. It is infrequent but widespread in the mountains and inner and northern Piedmont in VA.
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 4a–8b	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, U.S. National Arboretum



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