

# Malus coronaria

## Sweet Crabapple

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.

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic



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| 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, <a href="#">5-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   |  |
| <a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 4a–8b   | *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. |
| <i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>  |  |

Images by Elaine Mills, U.S. National Arboretum



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