



The Dawes Arboretum

Trees ∞ History ∞ Nature

Best Crab Apples

What is a crab apple?

Crab apples are small-fruited apples. They qualify as a crab apple only if the fruit size is 2" or smaller in diameter.

Can you eat crab apples?

You can eat crab apples, but you may not like the taste. Most people candy them or use them for making jellies.

Can I plant the seeds?

They will grow, but you will not get a copy of the parent tree. Crab apple cultivars are grafted to make sure you get the same plant.

Before you select one...

- Remember that crab apples are in the landscape 52 weeks a year, not just the short time they bloom.
- Plan to visit The Arboretum to see selections in different seasons; summer for foliage color and density; fall for fruit color and size; winter for form and fruit retention.
- Crab apples grow best in full sun. Soil should be moist but well-drained. Provide plenty of room for the mature height and spread.

The selection process:

There are 1,129 crab apples on the grounds including 264 in the Crab Apple Collection. One hundred and thirty individual taxa are represented including 18 different species and hybrids, and 112 different cultivars (figures based on 2000 statistics). Of these, the Horticulture staff has picked 23 outstanding crab apples worthy of consideration in central Ohio landscapes.

Why were they selected?

These particular cultivars have good flower, fruit and form; have shown resistance to blight, rust, scab and canker diseases; do well in this climate on these soils; and are available in the nursery trade.

How can you acquire these trees?

Mark the names of the trees you like and take this brochure to a nursery so they can get the exact same plant for you. Be cautious of substitutes.

How do I get more information?

- Call 800.44.DAWES or 740.323.2355
- stop by the Visitors Center
- information@dawesarb.org

Chosen by The Dawes Arboretum Horticulture Department

Common Name, Scientific Name	Size	Flowers	Fruits	Form	Comments
Bob White crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Bob White'	20h x 25w	white, fragrant	yellow 3/8"	spreading	persistent fruit
Centurion® crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Centzam'	25h x 20w	red	glossy red 5/8"	vase	blooms when young
Christmas Holly™ crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Chrisozam'	15h x 15w	white	dark red 3/8"	round	fruit very bright red
Coralburst® crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Coralcole'	12h x 15w	red	few bronze 3/8"	round	dense foliage
David crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'David'	15h x 15w	white	red 5/8"	round	
Donald Wyman crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Donald Wyman'	20h x 20w	white	red 5/8"	round	persistent fruit
Golden Raindrops™ Tibetan crab apple, <i>Malus transitoria</i> 'Schmidtcutleaf'	15h x 20w	white	golden yellow 1/4"	round	glossy disease-free leaves
Indian Summer crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Indian Summer'	15h x 15w	red	red 5/8"	rounded, open	persistent fruit
Japanese crab apple, <i>Malus floribunda</i>	20h x 25w	white, fragrant	amber 3/8"	irregular	
Liset crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Liset'	15h x 15w	red	maroon 1/2"	spreading	
Molten Lava® crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Molazam'	12h x 15w	white	dark red 3/8"	weeping spreading	
Ormiston Roy crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Ormiston Roy'	20h x 20w	white	amber 3/8"	upright, spreading	
Prairifire crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Prairifire'	20h x 20w	dark pink	red-purple, 3/8-1/2"	round	purplish branches
Profusion crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Profusion'	25h x 20w	red	red 1/2"	upright, spreading	
Red Jewel™ crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Jewelcole'	15h x 10w	white	bright red 1/2"	upright, spreading	persistent fruit
Sargent crab apple, <i>Malus sargentii</i>	10h x 12w	white, fragrant	red 1/4"	shrub; small tree	size variable
Snowdrift crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Snowdrift'	20h x 10w	white	orange-red 3/8"	round	
Strawberry Parfait crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Strawberry Parfait'	20h x 25w	pink	yellow 1/2"	spreading vase	
Sugar Tyme® crab apple,	20h x 15w	white	red 1/2"	spreading	prolific fruiter

<i>Malus</i> 'Sutyzam'					
tea crab apple, <i>Malus hupehensis</i>	20h x 25w	white, fragrant	amber 3/8"	vase	orange fall color
Tina Sargent crab apple, <i>Malus sargentii</i> 'Tina'	3h x 5w	white	red 1/4"	dwarf	
White Cascade® crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Cascole'	15h x 15w	white	amber 1/4"	weeping	compact form
Winter Gold crab apple, <i>Malus</i> 'Winter Gold'	20h x 20w	white	yellow 1/2"	broadly conical	