



CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA JACQ.

Fam. Rosaceae

DESCRIPTION

Ornamental shrubs with simple, white flowers, though varieties and hybrids with double and pink flowers are also rather common in gardens.

LEAVES

With a rhomboid shape, they can grow up to 2-6 centimetres long; they have a petiole and a shiny green blade with a deeply furrowed margin.

FRUITS

Firm and leathery berries that contain a rounded seed similar to a small cherry stone.

DISTRIBUTION

It is a thorny tree native to Europe that forms a thick bush about 8 metres tall and 1.5-5 metres wide at its peak vegetative development. It is spontaneously widespread in woodlands and mainly calcareous soils at altitudes between 0 and 1,500 metres.

BARK

The bark is compact and grey.

FLOWERS

Delicately scented, they appear on the branches before foliage. They are white and bundled in dense clusters. The flowers are grouped in corymbs (they can contain 5 to 25 of them), they have pink-white petals and can grow up to 5-6 mm long. It is a melliferous plant that mainly attracts bees.

INTERESTING FACTS

Hawthorn is used in landscaping as an isolated ornamental tree, cultivated as a shrub or small tree.

Its glossy wood is used for fine craftwork.

Because of its numerous beneficial health properties, Hawthorn has been used since ancient times to prepare infusions and syrups to reduce tachycardia and hyperexcitability.

Relaxing herbal tea with hawthorn is a very effective natural remedy to relieve stress, anxiety and restlessness, in general. Hawthorn symbolises protection and its flowers are commonly used as gifts at weddings and celebrations.

ROOTS

Robust and deep fasciculated taproot.

