

# Crabapples

## Trees for all Seasons

Crabapple trees in bloom are a dramatic feature of spring. The blossom color varies from white, and every shade of pink, to deep rose reds. However, their appeal is not limited to just flowers. The green summer canopy is brightened in the fall with yellows, oranges, reds, or maroon fruits and foliage. Attractive bark creates interesting winter features. They are outstanding trees to beautify the landscape for every season.

### Where to Plant

Crabapples are sun lovers. Plant them where they will benefit from at least six hours of sun a day. Fortunately, crabapples are very adaptable to their soil but prefer good drainage. They can take wind and cold!

### Selection and Disease Resistance

There are several ailments that can affect crabapple trees, but most new varieties are disease resistant. If you have an older crabapple variety, or we have a unseasonably wet year and the variety is affected by defoliation, several applications of fungicide early in the season will greatly reduce the problem. Raking up and destroying leaves in fall is also helpful for disease prevention.

### Planting and Care

Flowering crabapples adapt to a wide variety of soil conditions. They grow best in well-drained soils. Although they thrive in soils with ample moisture, they will do fairly well in dry sites once they are established. Excessively moist areas should be avoided. Some even do well in large containers or planter boxes as long as drainage is satisfactory and watering is regular.

Dig a hole 2 times wider and the same depth as the pot. Prepare a planting mixture of 1/3 topsoil and 2/3 Stauffers Premium Planting Mix. Place in the hole with the top of the root ball 1" above ground level. Back fill with planting mixture and tamp firmly. Make a basin around the edge of the hole to retain water.

Mulching the new plant will help to reduce water loss from the soil. Subsequent watering should approximate one inch of rainfall every 10 days during the first year. The only pruning necessary for good growth may be an occasional thinning out of the top. This should be done by cutting back a few of the smaller branches to the crotch. Branches of one inch and more should not be cut. Suckers at the base of the trunk are a problem with crabapples. They should be pruned each season.

# Crabapple Varieties

Variety Name	Size H x W	Shape	Flower	Fruit	Foliage	Disease Resistance
Cinderella	8' x 5'	Upright, Oval	Red Buds, White Flowers	Golden Yellow, 1/4"	Wine Red To Green	Fireblight, Rust Mildew - Good Scab-Fair
Golden Raindrops	20' x 18'	Upright, Vase Shaped	White, Abundant, Delicate	Golden Yellow 1/4"	Green, Deeply Cut	Scab, Cedar Apple Rust, Mildew-Excellent Fireblight-Poor
Lancelot	10' x 8'	Upright, Oval	Red Buds, White Flowers	Gold, 3/8" Persistent	Crisp Green	All Excellent
Louisa	15' x 15'	Broad, Weeping	Redbuds, True Pink Flowers	Yellow, 3/8" Persistent	Dark Green, Glossy	Scab-Excellent; Fireblight, Cedar Apple Rust, & Mildew-Good
Prairie Fire	20' x 20'	Upright, Rounded	Redbuds, Bright Pink Flowers	Maroon, 1/2" Persistent	Maroon to Green	All Excellent
Professor Sprenger	20' x 20'	Upright, Spreading	Buds Red to Pink, Flowers White	Orange, 1/2" Persistent	Dark Green Leaves	All Excellent
Red Jade	10' x 15'	Long Weeping Branches	Deep Pink Buds, White Flowers	Bright Red, 1/2" Birds Love	Glossy, Bright Green	Scab, Fireblight-Fair; Cedar Apple Rust-Excellent; Mildew-Good
Royal Raindrops	20' x 15'	Upright, Oval	Burgundy-Red Flowers	Red-Purple, 1/4"	Green, Deeply Cut	All Excellent
Sargent	8' x 12'	Low Dwarf, Horizontal Growth	Single White, Profuse, Fragrant	Dark Red, 1/3" Persistent	Dark Green	All Excellent