

# Crataegus monogyna

## COMMON NAMES

hawthorn

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub or small tree, up to 10m when mature, armed with axillary spines up to 12mm long, the longest spines associated with short flowering shoots; stems glabrous, smooth and reddish-brown when young but becoming grey when older. Leaves solitary on vigorous vegetative shoots but in fascicles on short shoots; petiole 5~25mm long, greenish, narrowly winged, grooved above; blade approx. deltoid to rhombic, 35~50 x 35~45mm, deeply lobed, glabrous, dark to mid green above, paler below with primary veins obvious; lobes 3~7, ascending, oblong, usually entire in lower half and sparingly and irregularly serrate near the acute apex; stipules of vegetative shoots reniform with prominently toothed margins, those of short shoots smaller and deciduous. Flowers many in flat corymbs subtended by small leafy acute bracts; bracts often larger and toothed on young stems; pedicels 5~11mm long, often bearing scattered, fine white hairs. Sepals greenish, finely pilose at least in lower part; lobes triangular to oblong, subacute, becoming reflexed. Petals broadly ovate to orbicular, 4~8mm diam., rounded to crenulate, spreading, usually white, rarely red-pink. Stamens < petals; filaments white or sometimes pale pink; anthers pink. Style usually 1. Fruit broadly oblong to subglobose, 7~11mm diam., dark red, shining, crowned by deflexed sepals; nutlets usually 1. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

The plant is a deciduous shrub or small tree that can grow to 10m when mature (Webb et.al. 1988). The plant is armed with axillary spines that range from 12-20mm in length.

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of lowland and montane habitats. Plant occurs in sites with low to low/moderate fertility. A plant that grows in low forest, forest margins, scrub, hill country pasture, pasture, disturbed forest, waste places and roadsides.

## GENUS

Crataegus

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

Crataegus monogyna Jacq.



Hawthorn. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

August, September, October

## FRUITING

autumn; May onwards.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1899

## ORIGIN

Europe

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

## TOLERANCES

The plant is tolerant to drought and shade and highly tolerant to frost. The plant is intolerant to poor drainage.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Germination of seeds requires overwintering and is enhanced by passage through birds. A large amount of fruit is produced, with the percent and length of time viable unknown. Seed dispersal is through vertebrates (birds and possums).

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**crataegus:** From the Greek name krataigos 'flowering thorn', believed to be derived from kratos 'strength' alluding to the hardness of the wood

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

**This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC.** 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

## NVS CODE

CRAMON

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crataegus-monogyna/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026