

A History

The oldest living crabapple at The Holden Arboretum, *Malus x scheideckeri*, was obtained in 1940. Soon after, crabapples were planted more extensively and the collection began to take shape. The decision to plant a greater number of crabapples resulted from a visit in 1938 by Dr. E.D. Merrill, Director of The Arnold Arboretum. While Dr. Merrill was very impressed with the scientific plantings at Holden, he advised that for popular interest and further financial support from patrons, collections of flowering trees and shrubs (crabapples in particular) be started.

Dr. Merrill's advice was followed and some popular crabapples of that time were chosen by Mr. Warren H. Corning who was serving as the volunteer administrator of the Arboretum. Mr. Corning's knowledge of trees and shrubs led to the planting of many fine examples of crabapples. There was no formal selection of a site. Since the Arboretum acreage consisted of only 100 acres, some of which was already planted, trees were placed where there was available space.

As the years passed, trees were removed and in their place newer varieties were planted. In 1982, a major renovation of the collection reduced the original planting to one for each variety. This renovation occurred because many of the existing trees were old, dying, or no longer available in the nursery trade. Newer and better varieties replaced the old

ones. These were more desirable because of higher disease resistance, longer-lasting fruit, or superior flowering. Renovation is an on-going process as higher quality trees are developed. Today, The Holden Arboretum crabapple collection contains approximately 160 different crabapples. Diverse cultivars and specimens for this area can be viewed by following the mowed crabapple path outlined below.

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Design/Illustration: Patricia Daly

Key to Crabapple Trail Species and Cultivars

1. *sargentii*
2. 'Prairifire'
3. 'Mary Potter'
4. 'Sentinel'
5. 'Ormiston Roy'
6. 'Donald Wyman'
7. Sugar Tyme®
8. 'White Angel'
9. 'Red Jade'
10. 'Bob White'

