

# Crabapples at The Holden Arb

**F**lowering crabapples (*Malus spp.*) are among the best ornamental trees in the home landscape. Very few small trees can match their showy blossoms, brilliant fruit, attractive foliage, and unique growing habit. These qualities, combined with durability and adaptability, make crabapples a near perfect all season tree in virtually any type of landscape.

Specifically, a crabapple is defined as any member of the genus *Malus* with fruit two inches or less in diameter. Flowering crabapples, in general, are small trees with an average height of twenty feet. Flower colors range from white to dark purplish-red, with many variations in between. Fruit color may range from yellow to red. Native to Europe, North America, and Asia, crabapples are one of the hardiest of flowering trees. They have the ability to

withstand the rigors of an urban setting as well as the severe winters which often occur in this area. An added benefit of the fruits is their persistence into winter making them an attractive food source for birds such as cedar waxwings, purple finches, and bluejays.

The crabapple collection at The Holden Arboretum is designed to exhibit the wide selection of crabapples available for planting in northeast Ohio and to test the many new and exciting varieties which are being developed. Bloom typically begins at Holden in late April and continues through the middle of May with the peak occurring around the second week of May.

An adjunct part of the collection is a test area where important landscape qualities of approximately 200 trees are studied by the Arboretum and Ohio State University Extension staff. This program is overseen by the International Ornamental Crabapple Society. The results are used to select trees with high disease resistance, attractive small fruits, good flower color and growth habit.

## Recommended Species and

The following crabapples northeast Ohio. They were sizes, colors, and habit. M found by visiting local nur

Malus	
'Adirondack'	
'Bob White'	
'Mary Potter'	
'Ormiston Roy'	
'Prairifire'	red-
'Red Jade'	
sargentii	rec
'Sugar Tyme'	p
'White Angel'	

Photo by Bruce Cubberley



*Malus* 'Mary Potter'