

Crataegus phaenopyrum 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata' Washington Hawthorn¹

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Introduction

This cultivar of Washington Hawthorn probably grows 20 to 25 feet tall in a narrow pyramidal or columnar shape. The tree has a rapid growth rate when young, slowing with age. It is tolerant of many different soil types. The small, white, abundant flowers, produced in clusters in late spring are followed by showy orange to red fruit that persist into winter, if not eaten by birds. The fall leaf color is orange to red and can be quite striking.

General Information

Scientific name: *Crataegus phaenopyrum*

Pronunciation: kruh-TEE-gus fee-no-PYE-rum

Common name(s): 'Fastigiata' Washington Hawthorn

Family: *Rosaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4A through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: urban tolerant; Bonsai; highway median; street without sidewalk; specimen; screen

Availability: not native to North America

Description

Height: 20 to 25 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical

Crown shape: upright/erect, columnar

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: serrate, lobed

Leaf shape: ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches, 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: copper

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white/cream/gray

Flower characteristics: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: orange, red

Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

1. This document is ENH372, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Reviewed May 2011. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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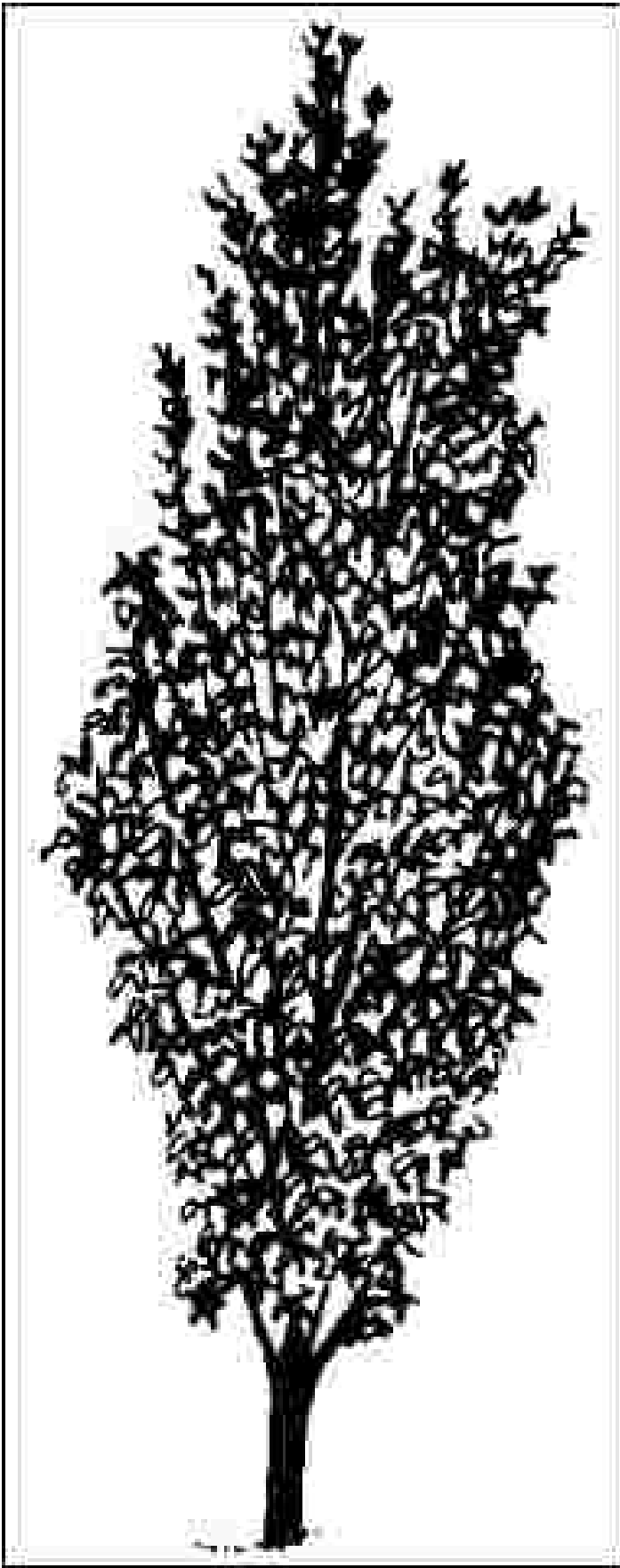


Figure 1. Young *Crataegus phaenopyrum* 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata'
Washington Hawthorn

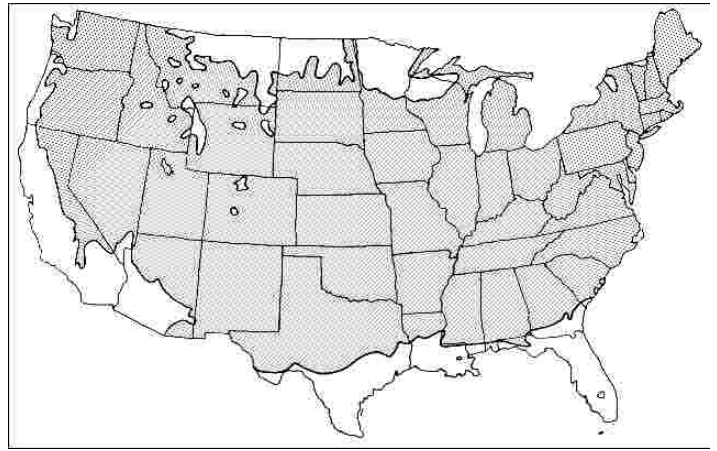


Figure 2. Range

Breakage: susceptible to breakage

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: thin

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun

Soil tolerances: sand; loam; clay; acidic; alkaline;
well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: low

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: yes

Outstanding tree: no

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: resistant

Pest resistance: sensitive to pests/diseases

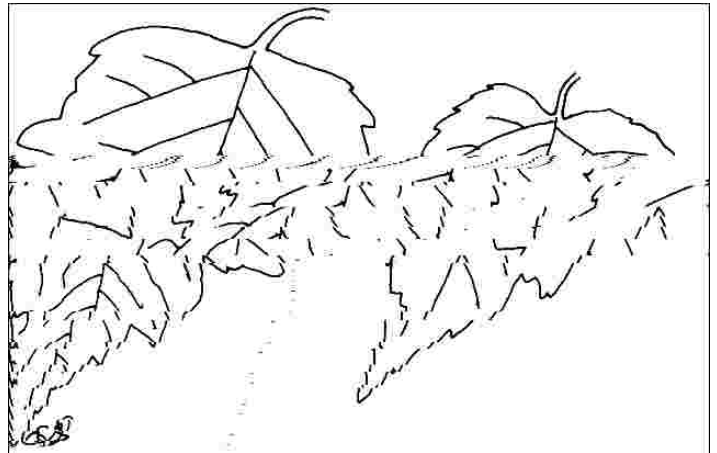


Figure 3. Foliage

Use and Management

This Hawthorn is quite useful as a street or median strip tree where there will not be heavy pedestrian traffic. The thorns are one to three inches long and contact with them can be painful. Left unpruned it creates a nice specimen in a lawn with lower branches persisting all the way to the ground. This characteristic also makes it quite suitable as a screen if planted on eight-foot centers. The bright fruit makes a show in the fall and winter which many people will comment on. Like other Hawthorns, the major problem with the tree is sensitivity to a large variety of insects and diseases.

Pests

Aphids can be controlled with strong sprays of water from a garden hose, if the colony is in the lower branches. Sometimes the aphids themselves are not seen but the distorted growth, honeydew on the leaves, and sooty mold growing on the honeydew are obvious.

Borer attacks may be prevented if the trees are kept in good vigor with regular fertilization.

Leaf miners symptoms are brown blotches on the leaves.

Lace bugs can be a serious, though occasional, problem. The insect feeding on the undersides of the leaves causes chlorotic flecks on the upper leaf surfaces. The lower sides of the leaves are covered with small, brown, sticky flecks.

The pear slug skeletonizes Hawthorn leaves and these sawfly larvae have a slimy appearance. A few insects can be washed off with a garden hose.

Tent caterpillar nests can be pruned out while still small. Sprays of *Bacillus thuringiensis* may be used. Do not burn nests while the nests are in the tree. The injury from the fire may exceed that caused by the insects.

Scales may be controlled with horticultural oil sprays.

Spider mites are so small they can cause much foliage discoloration before being detected.

Diseases

Fire blight: This disease can be severe in some parts of the country. The first noticeable symptom of fire blight is the browning of branch tips. The tips appear to be burned or scorched and the dead, brown leaves droop but hang on the tree. Cankers form and the bacteria is washed farther down the branch by rain. The bacteria are spread from diseased

to healthy twigs by rain, bees, and other mechanical means. There is no satisfactory chemical control. The disease is less of a problem if trees are not located near apple or pear orchards. Prune out blighted branch tips by cutting a foot or two beyond the diseased wood. Over-fertilizing with nitrogen fertilizer may increase tree susceptibility to fire blight.

Leaf blight attacks most Hawthorns but especially English Hawthorn. The symptoms are small reddish brown spots on the leaves which may run together. Infected leaves drop in August and severely infected trees may be completely bare.

Cedar Hawthorn rust causes orange or rust colored spots on the leaves leading to early defoliation. The fruits and twigs are also attacked. Juniper is an alternate host. Cedar-quince rust attacks fruits. Washington, Lavelle and Cockspur Hawthorn are resistant to rust diseases.

Scab causes leaf spotting and defoliation. The fruit have black raised spots on them.

Powdery mildew causes a white powdery growth on the leaves.