



WACD Plant Materials Center

## RED HAWTHORN

- Common Name:** Red Hawthorn
- Scientific Name:** *Crataegus columbiana*
- Distribution:** Red Hawthorn is found throughout Eastern Washington at low to mid-elevations.
- Growth Habit:** Red Hawthorn can grow to 20 feet tall and spread equally wide or wider. It is not uncommon for it to spread into larger thickets. Its branches can be rigid and upright in habit. They produce long, slender thorns that can reach 2 inches in length. Masses of white flowers are produced in April and May, which develop into dark scarlet berries by late summer.
- Adaptability:** Red Hawthorn is nothing if not adaptable. It seems to be equally at home in damp bottomland sites as it is in rocky upland areas. It thrives in full sun but is often found growing well in the shade.
- Comments:** Red Hawthorn is very similar in many ways to its more common close relative Black Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*). The most notable differences would be the color of its fruit, dark crimson versus black, and is less like to spread. Important similarities include a strong, stabilizing root system, hardiness and berries that are an important food source for several species of songbirds.