

# *Crataegus douglasii* Black Hawthorn



## **Range**

Its native range extends from southeastern Alaska, south to British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon and to northern California. It is also found in more inland locations in Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming, and in disjunct regions around the western Great Lakes (Minnesota, northern Michigan, southern Ontario, Saskatchewan).

## **Climate, elevation**

Low to middle elevations

## **Local occurrence (where, how common)**

*C. douglasii* var *douglasii* has 10 stamens and occupies the entire range above. *C. douglasii* var. *suksdorfii* has 20 stamens and occupies moist sites generally west of the Cascades. Current research strongly supports var. *suksdorfii* as a distinct species, *C. suksdorfii*.

## **Habitat preferences**

Moist, well-drained soils; Edges of forests and pastures; shorelines, streamsides and coastal bluffs; Full sun to partial shade.

## **Plant strategy type/successional stage (stress-tolerator, competitor, weedy/colonizer, seral, late successional)**

The tree adapts well to disturbed sites and is superb for soil and streambank stabilization projects. Native hawthorns also tolerate drought well, once established. Forms dense thickets.

**Associated species**

Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) and common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*).

**May be collected as: (seed, layered, divisions, etc.)**

Seed (preferred) and salvage.

**Collection restrictions or guidelines**

Seed should be collected as soon as it ripens (late July through August), because the fruit is harvested quickly by birds.

**Seed germination (needs dormancy breaking?)**

The thick endocarp on the seed coating requires a treatment with acid. Depending on the thickness, the seeds should be soaked for at least half an hour and possibly up to 3 hours in an acidic solution. The seeds can then be placed in a moist medium and cold stratified at low temperatures for 3 to 4 months.

**Seed life (can be stored, short shelf-life, long shelf-life)**

Seed collected and planted in early fall may germinate the following spring, or may lie dormant until the second spring.

**Recommended seed storage conditions**

No information found.

**Propagation recommendations (plant seeds, vegetative parts, cuttings, etc.)**

Planting seed is recommended; This species does not fare well when grown from cuttings.

**Soil or medium requirements (inoculum necessary?)**

Soil must be kept moist, slightly acidic or neutral.

**Installation form (form, potential for successful outcomes, cost)**

Seeds: sow very thickly, as some will not germinate until the second spring.  
Transplants: plants quickly develop a long taproot, so they should be transplanted into a permanent location as soon as possible.

### **Recommended planting density**

Black hawthorn is a small tree that can reach a height of 20 to 30 feet and a foot in diameter, though the species also grows as a brambly thicket-forming shrub.

### **Care requirements after installed (water weekly, water once etc.)**

Keep soil moist.

### **Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan**

Grows to 30 feet. Will grow up to two feet per year in the first couple years.

### **Sources cited**

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