

Hawthorn

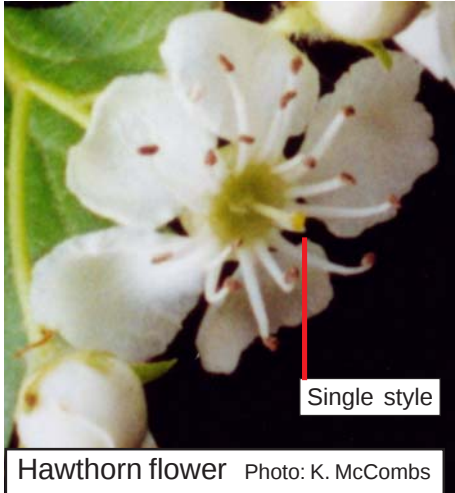
Crataegus monogyna

Rosaceae (Rose family)

Also known as whitethorn
and white hawthorn



Hawthorn flowers Photo: K. McCombs



Single style

Hawthorn flower Photo: K. McCombs

Identification

- Small tree, up to 10 metres tall, that loses its leaves in winter
- Leaves are arranged **alternately**, either singly or in clusters
- Leaves are notched, forming 3-7 deep **lobes**
- Leaves are dark green on top, paler below
- Has **spines** up to 12 mm long, especially in the joins between leaf stalks and branches
- Flowers grow in **clusters** and occur in spring (Oct-Nov)
- Flowers are usually **white** or red-pink, 10-15 mm diameter, with **5 petals**
- Fruit are small (7-11 mm diameter), almost round, **dark red berries**, with a single woody seed (nutlet) inside

The best way to distinguish C. monogyna from other ornamental Crataegus spp. is that C. monogyna has a single style, and a single nutlet in each berry (hence "monogyna"). The other common hawthorn (C. laevigata) has 2 styles and the berries have 2 nutlets. C. laevigata is often double-flowered, so it has more than 5 petals.



Hawthorn berries Photo: C. Howell

Why is it a problem?

Hawthorn produces many seeds that are spread large distances by birds. It is able to grow in a wide range of conditions including drought, salt and semi-shade. Hawthorn forms dense thickets, blocking access, crowding out other plant species and preventing desirable seedlings from establishing.

Status

Hawthorn is a surveillance plant pest in Canterbury, so it can not be sold, propagated or distributed.

Control

Dig small plants out, otherwise cut the trunk at ground level and paint the stump immediately with herbicide.

For more information on hawthorn,
please email weeds@ecan.govt.nz



Hawthorn Photo: K. McCombs