

## Tree Profile: Hawthorn - *Crataegus*

**General information:** *Crataegus* also commonly called **Hawthorn** or **Whitethorn**, is comprised of about 200 species. A native to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere in Europe, Asia and North America. Some species producing good autumn colour turning yellow, red or orange. Hawthorn is very suitable for Bonsai due to its quick and fine branch ramification. The other attractions are the clusters of white or double pink flowers in mid-spring and small red berries in autumn. They take about 15 to 20 years to flower! The branches on most species contain strong spikes.

**Position:** Full sun, but semi-shade in summer, protect from hot northerly winds and strong frost.

**Watering:** Most hawthorns like a lot of water, especially in summer! Keep moist all the time - don't let them dry out!

**Feeding:** Once a month from spring to autumn. High phosphorus and potassium fertiliser to promote flowering. In late summer use low nitrogen to harden the growth. Don't fertilize in midsummer!

**Repotting:** Young plants every year, older ones every second or third year in spring before leaf buds open or autumn when plant is dormant. Use standard bonsai mix - not too free draining to keep the moisture up!

**Pruning and Wiring:** Cut back new shots to two leaves with constant clipping to keep the shape under control. Structural and heavy pruning before leaves appear. Large wounds can take a long time to heal over! Wiring can be done during spring and summer, but best in autumn. Keep checking regularly for scarring!

**Styles:** Formal upright, Informal Upright, Slanting, Cascade, Semi-cascade, Root-over-rock, Twin-trunk, Clump, Group planting and Saikei. **Any size!**

**Propagation:** Softwood cuttings in summer, air-layering in spring, root development can take a long time. From seed when fruit is ripe!

**Pests and diseases:** Aphids, Caterpillars, Powdery Mildew and Rust.

### Species most common for Bonsai:

**Common Hawthorn/ *Crataegus monogyna* varieties**, also known as Quick or Quickthorn. It is a rounded, deciduous tree with fragrant white flowers.

**Hawthorn/ *Crataegus oxycantha* (syn. *Crataegus laevigata*)**, also known as May or Midland Hawthorn, the *Crataegus oxycantha* variety 'Pauls Scarlet' with its profuse, double, dark-pink flowers.

*Bodhidharma's Crataegus laevigata 'Rosea flore Pleno'*



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