



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
(360) 778-6234 www.whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds

ENGLISH HAWTHORN

Crataegus monogyna

THREAT: English hawthorn, also known as common hawthorn or single seed hawthorn is a tree native to Western Europe, North Africa and western Asia. Hawthorn trees have been used as garden ornamentals, but are also widely known for their medicinal uses. They have escaped cultivation, invading roadsides, parks, wooded areas and especially open fields. They can choke out native understory plants and grasses, and can form large single-species stands and dense thickets. Hawthorn

tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and climates, and grows best in full sun but can thrive in partial shade as well. Birds not only aggressively spread their seeds but are known to choose English hawthorn seeds over native hawthorn species thus leading to competition. Their branches have dangerously hardy thorns that can be one to two centimeters long. Hawthorn trees are also very susceptible to hosting pests such as the apple maggot which can affect the health and yield of nearby fruit orchards. Other pests include aphids, cankerworms, and gypsy moths. They also very susceptible to plant diseases like fire blight, leaf spot and stem rust.

DESCRIPTION: English hawthorn is a deciduous tree that grows up to 20-30 feet tall. Branches are low and dense and thorny. Leaves alternate, are glossy green, ovate in shape and are typically 3 lobed but can have up to 7 lobes. Leaves are between 1-2 inches long and as wide. English Hawthorne flowers bloom between April and June. Flowers are usually white/cream colored but can occasionally be pink, bearing five petals growing in flat-topped clusters. In the late summer and early fall, fruits produced are small red berries (around ½ inch diameter). English hawthorn grows moderately at a rate of about 1-2 feet per year.



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: English hawthorn can be controlled through mechanical and chemical means. Small seedlings can be hand dug when soil is moist but roots can be deep too at this stage. Be cautious of sharp thorns and use proper safety equipment. Cutting the tree is not effective since stumps will sprout new shoots. Contact the weed board for site-specific herbicide recommendations.

Photo: Oregon State University