

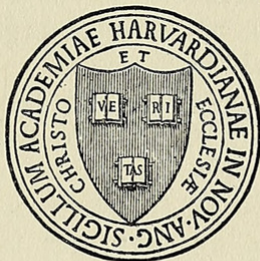
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BULLETIN OF POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

MAY 28, 1923

American Crab Apples. Among the small North American trees still imperfectly known to botanists and wood-lovers and scarcely known at all to gardeners are the different species, varieties and hybrids of the Wild Apple. Nine species of these trees are now recognized, with several varieties, and two hybrids and their varieties. They have white or pink fragrant flowers which do not open until the leaves are partly or entirely grown, and green or pale yellow fragrant fruit which hangs on slender stems and, with the exception of that of the species from the northwestern part of the country is depressed-globose, usually from an inch to two and a half inches in diameter and covered with a waxy secretion. All the species spread into thickets and are excellent plants for the decoration of wood-borders and glades. Some of the species have only been distinguished in recent years, and although the species and many of the varieties are now growing in the Arboretum several of these have not yet flowered; only two or three of these Crab Apples can be found in commercial nurseries.

***Malus glaucescens*,** which is named from the pale glaucous color of the under surface of the leaves, is the first of the American species to flower here and has been blooming for more than a week. It is a shrub usually rather than a tree, not more than fifteen feet high, with stems four or five inches in diameter. The flowers are white or rose color, up to an inch and a half across, and the pale yellow fruit is often from an inch to an inch and a half in diameter. It is common in several western New York counties and ranges to western Pennsylvania, southern Ontario and Ohio, and occurs on the southern Appalachian Mountains to northern Alabama.



1923. "American Crab Apples." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 9(7), 25–25. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321351>.

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