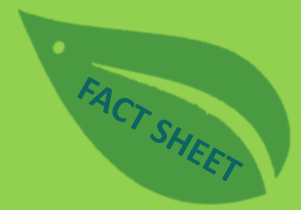


English Hawthorn

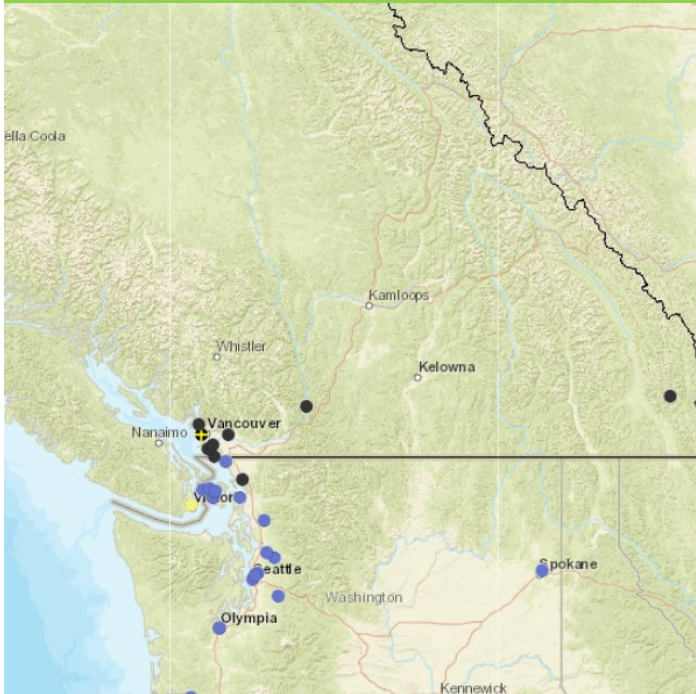
Crataegus monogyna

(AKA Common Hawthorn, One-seed Hawthorn)



Squamish: Prevent | Whistler: Prevent | Pemberton: Prevent

DISTRIBUTION



Origin: English Hawthorn is native to West Asia, Europe, and northern Africa, where it was used to create hedgerows to contain livestock. It was introduced in the 1800s to Oregon and southern Washington, where it began spreading across North America.

Habitat: English Hawthorn grows in lowland areas in many soil types but grows best in moist soil or areas with high precipitation. Mature plants are drought and somewhat shade tolerant. English Hawthorn is found in woodlands, pastures, riparian areas, grasslands, and meadows. It thrives best in deeper soils.

Reproduction: English Hawthorn reproduces both by seed and vegetatively. Each tree can produce 2,000 berries, and the seeds germinate in spring. English Hawthorn can also regenerate from cuttings.

An individual plant can live up to 250 years, giving it ample opportunity to spread.

IDENTIFICATION



Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

Small, thorny, deciduous tree or shrub in the Rose family.

Flowers: Small white, sometimes pink flowers are grouped in umbrella-like clusters of 10 - 20. The flowers resemble cherry or apple blossoms. Each flower has 5 - 25 stamens with pink-purple anthers that extend past the petals, and one style.

Stems: Mature plants are 2 - 9 m tall. The stems usually branch from a single trunk. The bark is smooth, pale, and grey; new shoots are reddish. English Hawthorn branches are covered with long thorns.

Leaves: Deeply cleft leaves with 3 - 7 lobes. The leaves resemble mittens and have a leathery texture. They are typically 2 - 5 cm long.

Fruits: One-seeded round fruits are bright to deep red. The fruits only develop on mature plants (10 years or older), and last on the plant late into winter.

Roots: Taproot.

Similar Species:

- **Native: Black Hawthorn** (Douglas' Hawthorn, *Crataegus douglasii*) has weakly lobed leaves, flowers with 5 styles instead of 1, and blackish fruits rather than red.

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Vectors of Spread: English Hawthorn can spread locally by vegetative reproduction through cuttings, but long-distance dispersal occurs through the transport of seeds. The fruits are highly favourable to birds which consume them and transport them great distances. They are primarily dispersed by the American Robin but can also be spread by other animals.

WHAT CAN I DO?

English Hawthorn is **NOT** currently found in communities the Sea to Sky Region, so **PREVENTION** of further spread is key:

- Do not plant English Hawthorn.
- Ensure soil and gravel are uncontaminated before transport.
- Minimize soil disturbances (e.g. use grazing plans that prevent soil exposure from overgrazing), and use seed mixes with dense, early colonization (e.g. alfalfa or barley) to re-vegetate exposed soil and resist invasion.
- Ensure plants (particularly flowering heads or root fragments) are bagged or covered to prevent spread during transport to designated disposal sites (e.g. landfill).

Do NOT compost.

English Hawthorn can be controlled by:

- **Mechanical Control:** Seedlings and young sapling can be pulled or dug up by hand. It is easier to pull roots up when the soil is moist. However, it can be difficult even with young saplings, since the roots are deep and the stems have sharp thorns. Be sure to wear gloves and protective clothing. Avoid cutting the plant when it is fruiting as this will help disperse the seeds. Remove all cuttings from the site (as English Hawthorn can regenerate from cuttings). Roots are also able to re-sprout if not removed completely.
- **Chemical Control:** Applying a chemical herbicide to cut stumps and the frilling method are the most effective for plants that cannot be manually removed. Foliar herbicide treatment may also be effective, though caution should be exercised to avoid spraying desirable vegetation, as always. We recommend that any herbicide application is carried out by a person holding a valid BC Pesticide Applicator Certificate. Before selecting and applying herbicides, you must review and follow herbicide labels and application rates; municipal, regional, provincial and federal laws and regulations; species-specific treatment recommendations, and site-specific goals and objectives.
- **Biological Control:** There are no approved biological control agents available for English Hawthorn. Its spines typically deter grazing.

If you suspect you have found English Hawthorn anywhere in the Sea to Sky region:

Contact the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council to report and for the most recent, up to date control methods. All reports will be kept confidential.

References: City of Nanaimo, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society, Gary Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team, Invasive Species Compendium, King County Noxious Weeds, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

IMPACTS

Ecological:

- Reduces biodiversity.
- Forms thorny thickets that block animal movement.
- Could hybridize with native Black Hawthorn, which may outcompete and decrease native populations and create a weedier, more competitive variety.
- Birds may prefer English Hawthorn berries to those of native Black Hawthorn, causing a reduction in the regeneration of native plants.

Economic:

- Nuisance species in pastures and grazing areas.



REPORT SIGHTINGS

Visit ssisc.ca/report

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