

Botanical Name: Pyracantha species (most are hybrids)

Common Name: Firethorn

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape erect to somewhat sprawling with ascending-sprawling  
branches, forms a rounded, mounded habit if unpruned; overall shape may vary  
according to variety--vigorous growers--thorns along branches

Height 8-10' Spread 8-10' Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to part shade

Soil prefers loam soils, tolerate most

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-24); thrives in warm, sunny locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate-whorled, obovate-oval, 1 to 1-1/2" long,  
emarginate apex, dark glossy green above, pale beneath

Flowers small, 1/4" white, crowded axillary or terminal panicles  
(on second year wood), mostly on spur branches--spring, summer or fall

Fruit pome, red, small, 1/8" showy; fall-summer-winter

Propagation: seed, semihardwood cuttings

Usage: barrier plant, formal/informal hedges, espaliers; usually  
for the heavy production of the attractive red fruit; color, size, production  
time vary with specific variety

Landscape Care:

Watering occasional deep soak -- avoid overwatering

Fertilizing balanced in spring; for chlorosis in wet conditions

Pruning to shape desired--avoid shearing for best flower/fruit

Pests/Diseases sooty mold, fireblight, scale, aphids, spider mite

Special Conditions preserve spurs and 2nd yr. wood for best flowers/fruit

Origin: East Asia Family: Rosaceae