

Indian Hawthorn Care Sheet



Brought to you by
S & S Bonsai of Colorado Springs, Colorado
(Most of the included information is obtained from several
online sources.)

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if
you were to live forever."
—Mahatma Gandhi—*



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The Indian Hawthorn

(Raphiolepis indica)

General Information: Evergreen dwarf shrub, rounded of medium texture. Reaches a height of five feet in landscape. Native habitat is South China. The fragrant, pink or white crabapple like flowers open in clusters above the foliage during April to May every year. Bluish black berries appear in late summer and persist through the winter. The fruits are dark blue and ripen as the bush is still blooming. The leathery, dark evergreen leaves are rounded, about 2 to 3 inches long, turning purplish in winter. Leaves are simple, alternate, and clustered at twig tips.

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Temperature: Zone 7-10. Hardy to 0°F (-18°C).

After a frost, some leaves turn a bright orange or red, but like live oaks, the old leaves remain until the new leaves push them out.

Lighting: Full sun to light shade. Does best in partial shade.

Air: Doesn't like cold, drying winds.

Watering: Moderately, tolerates occasional drought, tolerates a wide range of soils.

Fertilizing: pH Range: 5.5 to 6.5. The Indian Hawthorn likes a slightly acidic soil, use fertilizer for acid loving plants.

Pruning / Training: Like most spring-flowering shrubs, Indian hawthorn should be pruned after blooming (late April or early May). Next spring's flowers are produced on this year's growth, so if you prune heavily in the late summer or fall, you will reduce the number of flowers next spring.

Insects / Pests: Nematodes, fire blight, scale and Entomosporium leaf spot, which is the most common disease to strike Indian Hawthorns.

The first symptoms of the diseases are tiny, round and red spots on the lower and upper side of the younger leaves. These expand and on heavily diseased leaves, merge, forming large irregular blotches. Severe infections in the Indian Hawthorn may result in the early dropping of leaves. Remove leaves as soon as possible and improve airflow to stop spread of leaf spot .

Propagation: Seeds, semi-hardwood cuttings in late summer. Start seeds indoors in late winter or sew directly into the ground after the last frost.

Repotting: Repot annually. Needs fertile, well-drained soils.

Design and Styling: Informal upright, cascade and group.

There are a number of varieties:

- Ballerina: is up to 2 feet tall (60 cm), with pink flowers, and reddish leaves in winter.

- Clara: is up to 4 feet tall (1.2 m), with mostly white flowers. Its new growth is reddish.