

Malus trilobata

(Crab apple)

“Crab Apple, known in Arabic as Tuffah Barri, can still be found in Lebanon, along the western slopes of the Mount Lebanon range, with occurrences recorded in Ehden, Arz Ain Zhalta and Souaïsseh. Because of its limited distribution range, its survival in the wild is in danger, and field botanists have designated it as a threatened species. The Crab Apple is the only Apple tree species that has three-lobed leaves with three pointed tips. The trees display attractive blossoms with pink buds that bloom into large, fragrant white and pink flowers around April or May, before the leaves appear.

In summer, the trees acquire a full canopy of shiny, green maple-like leaves, and in autumn they display a nice show of autumn color. During winter,

the tree, which can grow as high as 20 meters,--is bare, displaying a beautiful, symmetrical branching architecture, and this makes it ideal for planting in gardens and along streets.”

Trees of Lebanon, 2014, Salma Nashabe Talhouk, Mariana M. Yazbek, Khaled Sleem, Arbi J. Sarkissian, Mohammad S. Al-Zein, and Sakra Abo Eid



Plant Image

Landscape Information

Arabic Name: تفاح بري

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: Lebanon

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Hardiness Zones: 7, 8

Uses: Specimen, Edible, Wildlife, Street, Native to Lebanon

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 15 to 23 m

Spread at Maturity: 10 to 15 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 20 to 50 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Lobate

Leaf Textures: Medium

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Yellow

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Flower Type: Panicle

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Single Trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Pome

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Yellow, Red

Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: No

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: Fruit

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image