

Pyracantha coccinea

(Scarelet firethorn)

Firethorn is a large, evergreen shrub that can reach up to 3 m in height and width. It is armed with sharp thorns that hide among the dark, glossy green leaves. The small white clustered flowers appear in spring and are followed by red, orange or yellow berries at fall. These persist through winter and into early spring depending on climate and appetite of the local bird population. The color of both leaves and berries tends to be darker in cooler climates. Firethorn is very fast growing urban-tolerant shrub that tolerates any soil condition. It needs full sun or partial shade, and can resist some drought. It also responds well on heavy pruning.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

Pronunciation: py-ra-KAN-tha kok-SIN-ee-uh

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Southern Europe

Heat Zones:

Hardiness Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Uses: Screen, Hedge, Espalier, Container, Edible, Wildlife, Erosion control, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Coarse

Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Semi Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Shape: Lanceolate

Leaf Margins: Serrate

Leaf Textures: Smooth

Leaf Scent:

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green, Copper

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Spines

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Yellow, Orange, Red

Seasons: Spring

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Fruit Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

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

Pests: Mites, Scales, Aphids

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting
