



## *Malus x* 'Callaway' 'Callaway' Crabapple<sup>1</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

The deciduous Callaway Crabapple tree reaches 15 to 25 feet in height and forms a rounded canopy (Fig. 1). This Crabapple is often recommended for use in southern gardens due to its high disease-resistance and its low chilling requirement for flower production. The beautiful, single flowers start out as soft, pink buds then open in early April into 1 to 1.5-inch-diameter white blossoms. The small but highly ornamental, persistent fruits which follow are deep red and held on the tree until devoured by birds and other wildlife. They can also be eaten or canned. Fruits create a litter problem on walks and patios beneath the canopy.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Malus x* 'Callaway'

**Pronunciation:** MAY-lus

**Common name(s):** 'Callaway' Crabapple

**Family:** *Rosaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** espalier; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; specimen

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

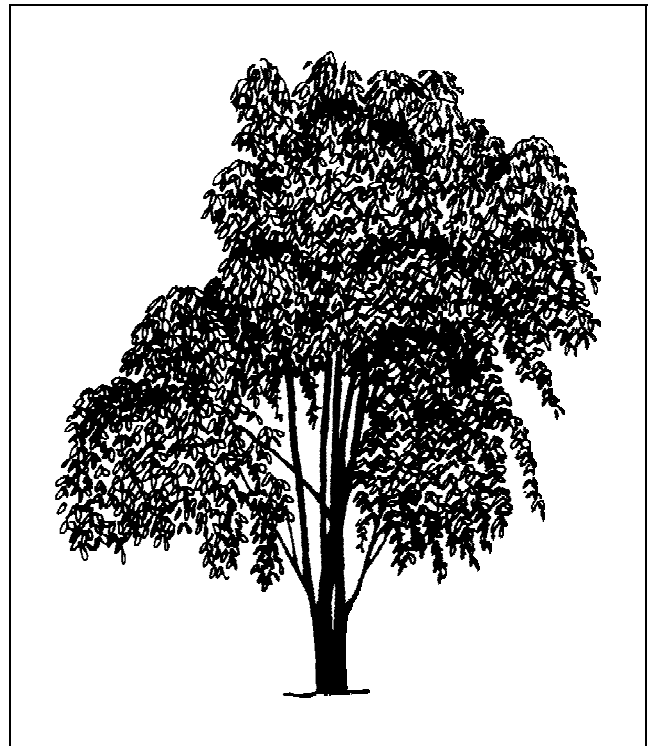


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Callaway' Crabapple.

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 15 to 25 feet

**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** round

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** medium

**Texture:** medium

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-392, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate; serrulate

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); ovate

**Leaf venation:** banchidodrome; pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristics:** spring flowering; very showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit covering:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** orange; red

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; attracts squirrels and other mammals; suited for human consumption; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; not particularly showy; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thin

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low

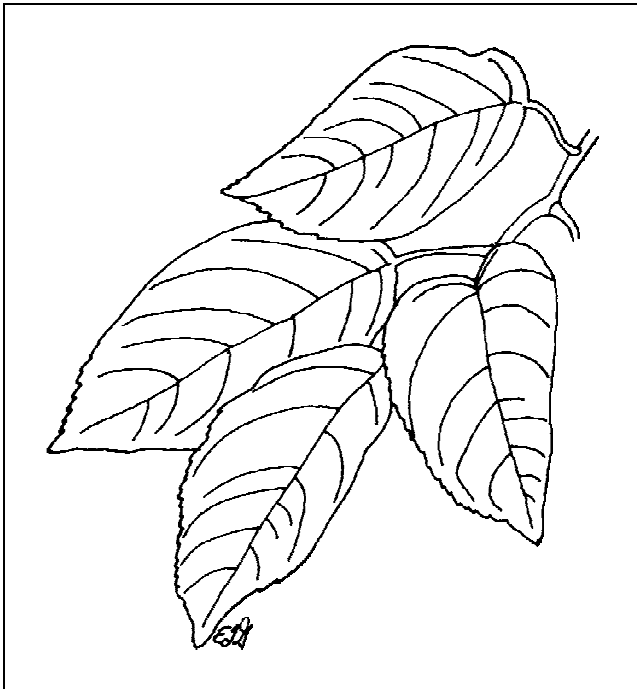


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Callaway' Crabapple.

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

'Callaway' Crabapple requires some pruning which should be completed before the end of spring, to ensure flower buds are not removed for next year's display. Trees normally branch low but train to develop a central trunk if planting along a street or other area where pedestrian or vehicle clearance is required. The large fruit is considered too soft and messy for planting along sidewalks.

Some low branches will probably need removing as the tree grows to allow for clearance. Crabapples need occasional thinning to eliminate water sprouts or crossed-branches, and to thin the crown. This allows

for better air circulation through the crown and helps reduce disease, although 'Callaway' may be one of the most disease-resistant of the Crabapples for the South.

Grows in moist, well-drained, acid soil in full sun locations for best flowering and disease resistance. Crabapples grow well in the Texas panhandle but are not extremely drought tolerant and are not well suited for high pH soil.

Contact the Ornamental Crabapple Society, Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois 60532 for more information on Crabapples.

### Pests

Aphids infest branch tips and suck plant juices.

Fall webworms will make nests on the branches and feed inside the nest. Small nests can be pruned out or sprayed with *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Scales of various types are usually controlled with horticultural oil applied in spring.

Mites are too small to see easily so can cause much foliage discoloration before being detected.

Tent caterpillar builds tents or nests in trees in early summer or late spring. Feeding occurs outside the nest. Small nests are pruned out or simply pulled from the tree and the caterpillars crushed. Do not burn nests while they are still in the tree since this will injure the tree and could start an uncontrolled fire.

### Diseases

'Callaway' Crabapple is only slightly susceptible to mildew and fireblight, and moderately susceptible to rust. Probably one of if not the most disease-resistant Crabapple for the southern U.S.

Powdery mildew is a fungus which coats leaves with mycelia resembling white powder.

Rust causes brown to rusty-orange spots on the leaves. Badly spotted leaves fall prematurely. Redcedars are the alternate host.

Crabapples are subject to several canker diseases. Prune out infected branches, avoid unnecessary wounding, and keep trees healthy.