Malus ‘Adirondack’

The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Malus* ‘Adirondack’, an elegant testament to the versatility and landscape value of the ornamental crabapple. The dark carmine buds of ‘Adirondack’ are evident for weeks in early spring before bursting forth in an annual explosion of large white blossoms. An upright growth habit and dark green, highly disease tolerant foliage give form and substance to the summer garden. Autumn paints the small, persistent fruit a bright orange-red. Unique in form, elegant in flower, and colorful in fruit, ‘Adirondack’ stars in every season of the year.

Winner of a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal Plant Award, 2002.

U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

‘Adirondack’ crabapple

Botanical name: *Malus* **‘Adirondack’** (Open-pollinated seedling of *M. mandshurica*) (NA 54943; PI 499828)

Family: Rosaceae

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–8

Development: Five hundred open-pollinated seedlings of *Malus mandshurica* were artificially inoculated with fire blight under controlled conditions. Of the sixty surviving seedlings, several showed field resistance to scab, cedar-apple rust, and powdery mildew when exposed to natural inocula from heavily infected, susceptible plants during eleven years of field trial. ‘Adirondack’ was selected from this seedling population in 1974 by Donald R. Egolf and released in 1987.

Significance: ‘Adirondack’ exhibits a combination of many desirable traits, making it a near-perfect crabapple. The narrowly obovate, upright-branched growth habit combines with an annual bloom cycle; abundant, small, persistent fruit; slow to moderate growth rate, and tolerance to multiple diseases that is rare to find in crabapples. Highly rated for both aesthetics and disease resistance by the International Ornamental Crabapple Society.

Description:
Height and Width: 18 feet tall and 16 feet crown width at 20 years.
Habit: Narrowly obovate, upright-branched small tree. Maintains upright form with age.
Foliage: Leathery, dark green leaves. The foliage is highly tolerant to cedar apple rust, apple scab, and powdery mildew.
Flowers: Annual flowering. Dark carmine buds mature to a lighter red and open to white, waxy, heavy-textured, wide-spreading flowers with traces of red; slightly fragrant.
Fruit: A pome. Abundant, bright orange-red, hard, small (1/2-inch) fruits persist until early winter. Relished by birds after they are softened by freezing.

Culture: Adaptable to diverse soil, moisture, and climatic conditions. Requires virtually no pruning to maintain its shape, nor chemical controls for the common crabapple diseases.

Propagation: Most commercial propagation is by budding or grafting onto compatible rootstocks. Roots easily from softwood cuttings in late spring, under mist, using 3000 ppm IBA, in 4 weeks.

Landscape use: Effective for foundation plantings of buildings or formal gardens; as a specimen for space-limited situations; a strong focal accent in the shrub border or residential garden; park and recreational area screen; roadside or street tree where shade is not needed.

Availability: Readily available from retail and wholesale nurseries.

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