

Crataegus phippsii O'Kennon

Phipps' hawthorne
Rosaceae (Rose Family)

Status: State Review Group 1

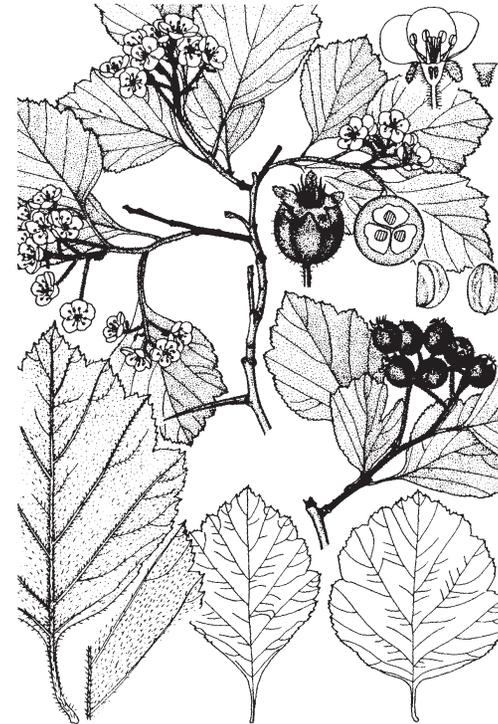
Rank: G1G3S1

General Description: Adapted from J.B. Phipps (1998): This tree or large shrub is 16 to 23 feet (5-7 m) tall, with a main trunk that sends out shoots. The young twigs are dark purple-brown and densely covered with short hairs. The older branches are dark gray with rather sparsely spaced brown to black somewhat thin and recurved thorns that are $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. (2-4 cm) long. The deciduous foliage is borne on pubescent leaf-stalks $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (1.5-2.0 cm) long. The somewhat leathery leaves are broadly ovate with 3 somewhat rounded to angled shallow lobes per side with shortly appressed hairs on the upper surface, and short hairs especially along the veins below. The leaf blades are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. (4-8 cm) long. The margins are shortly toothed with about 5 secondary veins per side. The inflorescence is a flattened panicle (branched with flowers maturing from the bottom upwards) densely covered with short hairs, with 6 to 12 flowers that are $\frac{2}{3}$ to 1 in. (15-22 mm) diameter, gland-margined, and subtended by linear bracts. The calyx lobes are broadly triangular and pubescent away from the axis, especially below; and the margins are cut into irregular lobes. The cup-shaped extension of the floral axis (hypanthium) is densely hairy on the outer surface, while the inside is hairless but bristly toward the center. The petals are ovate, and there are 10 stamens with pale pink anthers. The fruit is $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (12 mm) in diameter, ovoid to broadly flask shaped, covered with short hairs, and ripening from shades of red toward deep purple to black in color. The calyx lobes are reflexed on the ripe fruit. The 2 to 4 seeds are shallowly ridged on the lower surface.

Identification Tips: *Crataegus phippsii* most closely resembles *C. columbiana*, but can be distinguished by the following characteristics: *C. phippsii* has somewhat leathery leaves with 3 somewhat rounded to angled shallow lobes, whereas the leaves of *C. columbiana* are not leathery and are once or twice serrate and usually very slightly lobed. The fruit of *C. phippsii* ranges from red to deep purple or black in color, is ovoid to broadly flask shaped, and covered with short hairs, whereas the fruits of *C. columbiana* are dark red and covered with wooly tangled hairs. The mature bark of *C. phippsii* will occasionally flake off in longitudinal strips, which is an unusual characteristic in hawthorns.

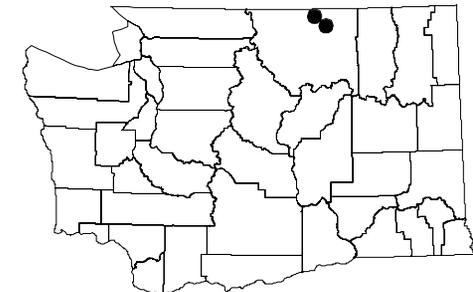
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Phipps' hawthorne



Phipps and O'Kennon. 1998. Three new species of *Crataegus* (Rosaceae) from western North America: *C. okennonii*, *C. okanaganensis* and *C. phippsii*. Courtesy of Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth.

Known distribution
of *Crataegus phippsii*
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Peter Zika



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Phenology: In Washington this species has been observed in fruit (the best time for identification) in late September.

Range: This species is found in British Columbia, Montana and Washington. In Washington it occurs in Okanogan County.

Habitat: This species occurs in open thickets at 850 to 1150 feet (259-350 m) elevation. Associated species include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Mackenzie's willow (*Salix rigida* spp. *mackenzieana*), and choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*).

Ecology: This species is sometimes found in riparian areas.

State Status Comments: In Washington this species is known from less than 10 individuals from two different populations.

Inventory Needs: Appropriate habitats in Okanogan County should be systematically surveyed for additional populations.

Threats and Management Concerns: Because this species was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time. The small number of recent occurrences contributes to its state status. In Washington most of the known individuals are on private property.

Comments: This species is not described in Hitchcock et al. (1961), but would probably key out to *C. columbiana*.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.

Phipps, J.B. & R.J. O'Kennon, 1998. Three new species of *Crataegus* (Rosaceae) from Western North America: *C. okennonii*, *C. okanaganensis* and *C. phippsii*. *Sida* 18(1): 169-191 pp.