

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

English hawthorn
Crataegus monogyna Jacq

Other common names: common hawthorn, single-seed hawthorn, one-seed hawthorn, Mayblossom

USDA symbol: CRMO
ODA rating: B



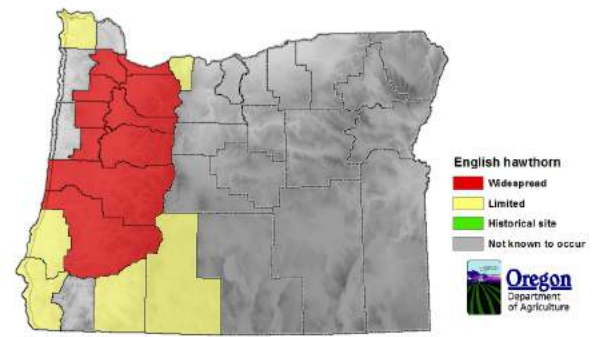
Introduction: English hawthorn is a European tree species, introduced primarily as an ornamental and occasionally for livestock hedges. In the San Juan Islands, hawthorn survives in a multitude of habitats, ranging from seasonally inundated wetlands to rocky, dry, sandy soils, to the middle of densely forested areas. Naturalized throughout the east and west coast of North America, it forms dense thorny thickets in pastures, wildlife areas, and native oak forests. In the past, hawthorn was sold in nursery trade as a hedging plant, for ornamental trees or bred into dwarfing varieties. In the wild, hawthorn provides a late season food source for songbirds, which in return, aid in the rapid dispersal of the hawthorn seeds.

Distribution in Oregon: In Western Oregon, the largest populations may be found in Douglas, Lane, Linn and Yamhill Counties. Plants are predominantly found in seasonally dry hillside pastures, seasonal wetland prairies and in oak forests. Most other Western Oregon counties contain populations of English hawthorn to some degree.

Description: English hawthorn is a broadly spreading shrub or small tree growing up to 25' tall. The trunk has pale, gray smooth bark and younger stems bear sharp thorns making the plant useful for natural fence plantings in pastures. The leaves are 1-2 inches long and deeply lobed, sometimes almost to the midrib, with the lobes spreading out like a birds foot. Flowers are produced in showy white clumps from late spring to early summer in clumps of 5-25 blossoms; each flower is about 1 cm diameter. Pollinated flowers produce a haw, which is a small, oval, dark red fruit about 1 cm long, berry-like, but structurally a pome containing a single seed.

Impacts: Thickets of English hawthorn render rangeland and pasture ground in Douglas County useless. Douglas county hillside sheep operations experience losses in forage production and control expenses due to dense hawthorn growth. Steep slopes and the size of infestations render many control options uneconomical. Impacts of English hawthorn are experienced in oak forest restoration projects. Dense stands of hawthorn inhabit thousands of acres of white oak habitat and must be removed to allow for continued survival of oak trees.

Biological controls: Biological control is not available for English hawthorn.



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State of Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office (GEO)



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