

Indian Hawthorn

Info Sheet

Raphiolepis indica

India Hawthorn, a member of the rose family, is native to southern China. This attractive small shrub grows well in all parts of Florida, is tolerant to low-temperatures and relatively pest-free. It has nice dark green-colored leaves and produces abundant apple-like flowers in the spring. Small, round, dark blue fruits follow the blooms, adding to the beauty of this plant in the landscape. This attractive flowering shrub requires very little care and has many uses in the landscape.

India Hawthorn is an evergreen shrub, with a slow rate of growth, reaching about 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide. The leaves are simple, up to 3 inches long, alternate, leathery, finely serrated, and clustered at the tip of the branches. Dark green in color above and light green and often brown pubescent on the veins on the under side. Flowers are pinkish to white, fragrant, about 0.5 inch in diameter, with 5 narrow pointed petals that grow in 3 to 4 inches long, loose terminal panicles in the spring. The fruits are small, round, about 0.5 inch, purple to black in color.

Planting

Best growth can be expected when plants are set in a well-drained, improved soil in sun, partial shade or shade. Plants should be placed in the ground at soil level and mulch should be applied around root area to keep soil moist. Water plants thoroughly every day for the first week. For the next two to four weeks, water at the rate of two to three thorough waterings per week. Container plants can be planted at any time of the year.

Fertilizing

Fertilize using **Espoma Plant-tone** or **Holly-Tone** at least 4 times during the growing season. Apply ¼ cup per plant and distribute lightly over the entire root zone.

Uses

Indian Hawthorn are extremely salt tolerant and can be used in dune areas, as foundation plants or in

shrub borders. They are also used in mass plantings, hedges and even containers. Taller varieties make excellent small trees.

Available Varieties

Raphiolepis indica "Alba": Clusters of white flowers in spring and again in fall. Maximum height of 4 feet. Most popular variety for Brevard County.

Raphiolepis Hybrid "Majestic Beauty": Clusters of pinkish flowers in spring and throughout the year. Maximum height of 10 to 12 feet, makes an excellent small tree or large shrub.

Plant Problems

Scale insects: Sucking type insects that remove plant juices through underside of leaves.

Solution: Apply **All Seasons' Oil** or **Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench** following bottle instructions.

Fire Blight: Bacterial disease caused by over fertilizing with high nitrogen.

Solution: Use **Espoma Plant-tone** 4 times per year for the entire growing season.

The logo for Rockledge Gardens features the words "Rockledge" and "Gardens" in a large, teal, serif font. A stylized teal leaf or wave graphic is positioned behind the letter "G" in "Gardens".

Naturally beautiful and fun!

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