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*Crataegus azarolus*

[Synonyms : *Crataegus aronia*, *Crataegus aronica*, *Crataegus maura*]

**NEAPOLITAN MEDLAR** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to the eastern Mediterranean (especially Crete and Israel) it has small white flowers.

It is also known as *Acerolo* (Spanish), *Azarole*, *Azaroleira* (Portuguese), *Azarolo* (Esperanto, Italian), *Azerole*, *Azerolier* (French), Crete hawthorn, *Ghanzalore* (Maltese), *Jangli seb* (Urdu), Mediterranean medlar, Naples medlar, and Spiny hawthorn.

*Azarolus* is derived from a vernacular Italian and Esperanto name *azarolo*.

Locally the whitish, orange-red or yellow haws are eaten raw, made into jams and jellies or used as a liqueur flavouring.

It has been grown in England since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century – and it has also been introduced to North America.

The blossom has been used for flower arranging.

The fruit offer a commercial ingredient for the drinks industry as a flavouring for liqueurs.

Medicinally, the neapolitan medlar is said to have been used locally in Mediterranean countries in 13<sup>th</sup> Century for treating stomach upsets.