

Crataegus pruinosa

[Synonyms : *Crataegus aspera*, *Crataegus cognata*, *Crataegus congesta*, *Crataegus crawfordiana*, *Crataegus deltoides*, *Crataegus formosa*, *Crataegus franklinensis*, *Crataegus gattingeri*, *Crataegus gattingeri* var. *rigida*, *Crataegus gaudens*, *Crataegus georgiana*, *Crataegus lecta*, *Crataegus leiophylla*, *Crataegus littoralis*, *Crataegus mackenziei*, *Crataegus mackenziei* var. *aspera*, *Crataegus mackenziei* var. *bracteata*, *Crataegus mackenzii*, *Crataegus parvula*, *Crataegus platycarpa*, *Crataegus porteri*, *Crataegus porteri* var. *caerulescens*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *cognata*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *congesta*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *conjuncta*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *grandiflora*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *latisepala*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *leiophylla*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *pachypoda*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *parvula*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *porteri*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *rugosa*, *Crataegus pruinosa* var. *virella*, *Crataegus rugosa*, *Crataegus vicinalis*, *Crataegus virella*, *Mespilus pruinusus*]

FROSTED HAWTHORN is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to north-eastern United States it has small white flowers with rose-coloured stamens.

It is also known as Pruinose hawthorn, Scarlet thorn, and Waxyfruit hawthorn.

The flowers have an initially fairly pleasant smell which becomes ever more fetid as they mature in order to attract the tiny pollinating gnat-like flies.

Pruinosa is Latin (full of hoar-frost, rime) meaning ‘with a white glistening bloom or frosting’ with reference to the fruit colouring.

The small purple-tinged, glossy orange to dark red fruit were eaten by the North American Iroquois tribe both fresh and dried for Winter or hunting food. They also made the fruit into a sauce that was added to bread mixtures.

Locally today the fruit are made into pies and preserves and are also eaten fresh.

The heavy tough wood has been used for making mallets, tool handles and other small items. Birds enjoy the fruit.

Medicinally, recent research has confirmed traditional practice of local herbalists who recommended long term use of a tea made from the fruit and flowers as a heart tonic.