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*Crataegus submollis*

[Synonyms : *Crataegus arnoldiana*, *Crataegus champlainensis*]

**HAIRY COCKSPURTHORN** is a thorny, deciduous shrub or tree. Native to north-eastern North America it has small white flowers with yellow stamens.

It is also known as Canada thorn, Champlain hawthorn, Emerson's thorn, *Iso-orapihlaja* (Finnish), Quebec hawthorn, and *Trädhagtorn* (Swedish).

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.

*Submollis* is derived from Latin *sub-* (somewhat, almost, rather, slightly, partially, under, etc.) and *mollis* (soft) meaning 'somewhat softly hairy or velvety tenderness'.

The North American Iroquois Indians fire- or sun-dried the small hairy red berries not only as a hunting food but also for storage and future use. They were then made into a sauce or added to bread.

The Iroquois tribe also employed hairy cockspurthorn in a ritual cure for cancer.

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

Birds enjoy the fruit.

Like other close relatives the heavy and tough wood has been used for making mallets, tool handles and other small items.

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