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### *Malus domestica*

[Synonyms : *Malus acerba*, *Malus communis*, *Malus pumila*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Malus sylvestris* subsp. *mitis*, *Malus sylvestris* subsp. *orientalis*, *Pyrus malus*, *Pyrus malus* var. *mitis*, *Pyrus malus* var. *paradisiaca*, *Pyrus malus* var. *pumila*, *Pyrus malus* var. *sylvestris*, *Pyrus pumila*, *Pyrus sylvestris*]

**APPLE** is a deciduous tree. Native to western Asia, Europe and the Himalayas, it has small generally fragrant, white or pale pink flowers.

It is also known as *Almaa* (Hungarian), *Apfel* (German), *Apfelbaum* (German), *Apel* (Swedish), *Äpple* (Swedish), Common apple, Common crab apple, Crab apple, Cultivated apple, *Garten-Apfel* (German), *Iablokaa* (Russian), *Jablko* (Polish), *Jabloň domáca* (Slovak), *Jabloň domáci* (Czech), *Kulturapel* (Swedish), *Maluso doma* (Esperanto), *Manzana* (Spanish), *Melo* (Italian), *Omena* (Finnish), *Pomme* (French), *Pommyi* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Pomo* (Italian), *Poumier* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Trädgårdspel* (Swedish), *Tuffieħ ta' Billudja* (Maltese), Wild crab, and Wild apple; and in flower language it is said to be a symbol of 'fame called him great and good' (blossom), fruitfulness, 'he prefers you', preference (blossom), prosperity, rejuvenation, and temptation.

The round green, red and/or yellow fruit can be sweet, bitter or tasteless according to the variety (of which there are about 7,000).

Warning – pips consumed to excess are poisonous. Fallen apples can be poisonous for grazing livestock.

*Domestica* is derived from Latin *domesticus* (belonging to the house, domestic) meaning 'cultivated, or domesticated'.

Arkansas in the USA adopted apple blossom (*Malus domestica*) as the State flower in 1901 but she had been beaten by Michigan who adopted the blossom as well earlier in 1897.

It is the birthday flower for 31<sup>st</sup> December.