

Crataegus x *persimilis* 'Splendens'
shiny plumleaf hawthorn, shiny broad-leaved cockspur thorn



Crataegus x *persimilis* "Splendens" (shiny plum-leaved hawthorn) is a small deciduous tree that originated as a hybrid of Crataegus crus-galli and Crataegus succulenta in the 20th century. Splendens refers to the glossy leaves of this cultivar. This graceful tree eventually reaches a height of about six to eight metres and a width of about eight metres, making it slightly wider than the species. The crown is broad, flattened in shape and has a slightly layered structure. The silhouette is quirky, giving the tree a characteristic appearance even in winter.

The shiny, dark green leaves with a leathery texture and light green underside give the tree a healthy appearance in summer. In autumn, the leaves change colour to striking shades of orange and red. In May-June, large numbers of small, white flowers appear in clusters, which are lightly scented and attract insects and other pollinators. These flowers are followed by an abundance of red berries that often remain on the tree until October, providing food for birds. The bark is light grey and flakes off with age, while the twigs bear sharp spines several centimetres long.

Crataegus x *persimilis* "Splendens" is a strong and adaptable tree that thrives in urban environments, parks, gardens and natural plantings. It grows best in well-drained, moderately fertile soil and can tolerate various soil types, including clay, loam and sand. The tree prefers full sun to partial shade and is highly resistant to wind, drought and air pollution. It is also easy to prune, allowing it to be shaped into topiary trees or avenue trees for applications with limited space. Its hardiness, low maintenance requirements and ornamental value throughout all seasons make it a tree suitable for planting in both natural and urban environments.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: beehive, block, cylinder, pyramid, cone, multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: avenue, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, countryside | **Pavement**: none | **Planting concepts**: Landscape planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: flattened spherical | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 6 - 8 m | **Width**: 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies, birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: corymbose, striking, half filled, flower-scented | **Flower colour**: white | **Flowering period**: May - June | **Leaf colour**: green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovate, ovoid, leathery , polished, serrate | **Autumn colour**: orange | **Fruits**: striking, berry | **Fruit colour**: red | **Bark colour**: grey-brown | **Bark**: peeling | **Twig colour**: red-brown | **Twigs**: thorned

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