

Malus trilobata
Lebanese wild apple, Trilobata crabapple, erect crab apple, three-lobed apple, deer apple



Malus trilobata (syn. Eriolobus trilobatus, Lebanese wild apple) has a natural distribution area in Lebanon, Turkey, Syria and Greece, where it grows, together with, among others, Quercus pubescens, Fraxinus ornus and Carpinus orientalis, in thickets, oak and pine forests. It is a special apple-like plant that botanically differs from other Malus species and should perhaps fall under Eriolobus. The species grows into a medium-sized tree of eight to twelve meters high and four to five meters wide. The crown shape is upright narrow pyramidal, with a dense crown and sturdy branches, giving the Levant crabapple a stately, natural appearance.

The most striking feature of Malus trilobata is its three-lobed leaf, which strongly resembles maple leaf. The foliage is glossy fresh green in summer and changes to orange-yellow to red in autumn. Malus trilobata blooms, rather late for a crabapple, in June with single, white flowers that are relatively large for a crabapple and are richly visited by insects. After flowering, green-yellow to later red, apple-like fruits of about three to four centimeters in diameter follow, which are firm and sour and are of added value both aesthetically and ecologically. The bark is grey-brown and fairly smooth on young trees, later slightly grooved: twigs are sturdy and contribute to the robust crown structure in winter.

The Levant crabapple is a valuable tree for parks, larger gardens and public green spaces in cities. There, due to its Mediterranean origin, it can be a good future tree in paved areas, provided the planting site consists of well-drained, nutrient-rich soils - preferably calcareous or neutral. Malus trilobata combines a special leaf shape with flowering, fruit and autumn colour. A location in full sun to light semi-shade is ideal. Malus trilobata is very winter hardy, tolerates drought reasonably well and is hardly susceptible to diseases, which makes it suitable for sustainable green spaces and extensive management.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees

USE
Location: street, avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, ecological zone | **Pavement**: sealed, open, none | **Planting concepts**: Eco planting, Landscape planting

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: narrow pyramidal | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 8 - 12 m | **Width**: 4 - 5 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5A - 8B

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

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: umbels, striking, singular, weakly scented, flower-scented | **Flower colour**: white | **Flowering period**: May - June | **Leaf colour**: dark green, underside grey-green | **Leaves**: deciduous, polished, underside hairy, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour**: scarlet | **Fruits**: striking, small, crabapple/ornamental apple | **Fruit colour**: yellow-green, red, green | **Bark colour**: grey-brown | **Bark**: slightly furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour**: red-brown | **Twigs**: hairy, short shoots, vertical branches | **Root system**: deep, highly branched

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