

Malus toringo var. *sargentii*

Sargent crabappel, Sargent's apple



Malus toringo var. *sargentii* (Sargent crab apple, synonym *Malus sargentii*) was found in 1892 by American botanist Charles Sprague Sargent in brackish swampland in Hokkaido, Japan. Various botanists still differ on whether it is a separate species or a variation but in any event this tree has an entirely different growth habit than that of *Malus toringo*: i.e., very wide and low (between three and four and a half metres wide and up to four metres tall) but because of the heaviness of the branches it actually looks more like a tree than a shrub. Juvenile twigs are long, pendulous and tangled.

At the end of April or in early May, Sargent crab apple is a mass of low-hanging white flowers, making it a delight to behold. The single blooms are produced from white flower buds on long stems with yellow stamens which contrast wonderfully with the white sepals. Bees and other insects too love the flowers. The tree has glossy dark green leaves which vary in terms of their form: from elongated to egg-shaped serrated and from toothed to 3-5 lobed. The crab apples so beloved by birds appear in the autumn and differ from those of *Malus toringo* on account of their crimson colour. They are one centimetre large, striking in their colour and quantity and make a wonderful foil for the butter yellow to orange yellow autumn foliage. The bark of *Malus toringo* var. *sargentii* is grey brown, peeling off in platelets on older trees, and the branches are spiny.

Its uniquely distinctive growth habit means that the disease-resistant *Malus toringo* var. *sargentii* can be used in many locations. For instance, gardens, parks and green spaces where it creates depth or provides some screening at eye level. But also in containers and on roofs - where the tree is not susceptible to wind thanks to its low form - *Malus toringo* var. *sargentii* can be used. By combining *Malus toringo* var. *sargentii* with *Malus toringo* the desired depth can be enhanced further. The latter looks broadly similar but the lower branches can be removed to be able to look underneath it.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella | **Topiary:** globe, block

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: flattened spherical | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 2.5 - 4 m | **Width:** 3 - 4.5 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, slightly tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: striking, singular, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** white, pale pink | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, polished, slightly hairy, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** striking, raceme, crabapple/ornamental apple | **Fruit colour:** golden yellow, dark red | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** brown | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels | **Root system:** shallow, extensive