

For Tree Tips column on May 8, 1998
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RECOMMENDED CRABAPPLES FOR NORTHEAST NEBRASKA LANDSCAPES

Crabapples are a very common ornamental tree used to add color in the landscape or used in areas where large shade trees will not fit. There is an estimated 200 varieties of crabapples available in the nursery trade, but due to susceptibility to diseases and/or the messiness of the fruit, only a handful should be considered for the home landscape. The most important consideration of choosing a crabapple is to select one that is resistant to the most common disease problems which include: cedar apple rust, powdery mildew, apple scab and fireblight. Not all crabapples have equal resistances to these problems. Most of the older planted crabapples are susceptible to cedar apple rust and/or apple scab. The homeowner is setting themselves up for problems if they buy and plant a variety that is susceptible. Do not purchase or accept a crabapple variety from a nursery or garden store without first checking on its disease resistance.

In 1983, the National Crabapple Evaluation Program was initiated to test approximately 50 of the best crabapples on disease resistance, flowering traits, growth habits and fruit characteristics. The following is a listing of crabapples that have shown the best results and are the some of the best recommended varieties to plant in a northeast Nebraska landscape:

Cultivar	Fruit	Flower
'Don Wyman''	red	white, excellent
Golden Raindrop	gold-yellow	white
Indian Magic	red orange	pink
Professor Sprenger	Orange-red	white, attractive
Red Jewel	red	white
Sugar Tyme	red, persistent	white, excellent
Prairiefire	Purple-red	coral red
Ormiston Roy	orange-yellow	white

The listed trees have the best disease resistance and small, marble-sized fruit that will not cause a mess or be intolerable. In fact, most of the fruits are utilized by wildlife and birds in the winter and can be an attractant for backyard wildlife. For a more complete listing for recommended crabapples in a Nebraska landscape you can stop at your local UNL Cooperative Extension office and request NebGuide G917-1326-A.