

# Wild Apple

*Malus spp.*

Certain species like *Malus pumila* (common apple) can become naturalized in disturbed areas, pastures, or roadsides, occasionally behaving as a weed in New Zealand and Australia.

## Identification

*Malus* spp. (apple/crabapple) are deciduous trees or shrubs in the Rose family, identified by alternate, simple, oval-shaped leaves with serrated margins, often featuring spurs. They possess showy, 5-petaled flowers (white, pink, or red) in spring, and produce pome fruits (apples) ranging in size and color. Bark is typically gray-brown and scaly.



**Leaves:** Simple, elliptical to ovate, generally 1.5–3 inches long, finely serrated, and often with small hairs on the underside and petiole.

**Flowers:** Perfect flowers appearing in spring, usually in clusters (umbels), featuring 5 petals that range in color from white to deep red or pink.

**Fruit (Pomes):** Ripe in fall, ranging from small yellow/green crabapples (usually under 2 inches) to larger domestic apples.

**Twigs and Buds:** Moderate thickness, brown to gray, often with prominent spur shoots (short, stubby twigs). Buds are generally pointed, often with grey, downy hair.

**Form:** Small to medium trees (15–35 feet) with slender, upright branches.

**Bark:** Generally smooth when young, becoming thin and scaly with age.

## Control

**Physical Removal:** Hand-pulling seedlings. Cut the main trunk and treat with picloram or glyphosate gel. Do not fell a tree when it is holding fruit, even unripen fruit, as you'll only spread the seed.

**Herbicides:** Glyphosate: Non-residual herbicides like glyphosate can be used. Drill & fill the main trunk by drilling 2 or 3 20mm holes at an angle down for 1/3 of the trunk diameter, then filling with diluted glyphosate 360 (1/3 water)

