

Rhaphiolepis indica

Indian Hawthorn, a member of the rose family, is native to southern China. This attractive, slow growing, small shrub grows well in all parts of Florida, is tolerant to low temperatures and is relatively pest-free. It reaches about 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide and requires very little care.

Indian Hawthorn is an evergreen shrub with dark 3 inch long green-colored leaves. It produces abundant pinkish white apple-like flowers in the spring that develop into small, round, dark blue fruits, adding to the beauty of this plant in the landscape.

Planting

Best growth can be expected when plants are set in a well-drained, improved soil in sun, partial shade or shade. Plants should be placed in the ground at soil level and mulch should be applied around the root area to keep soil moist. Water plants thoroughly every day for the first week. For the next two to four weeks, water at the rate of two to three thorough waterings per week. Container plants can be planted at any time of the year.

Fertilizing

Fertilize using **Espoma Plant-tone** or **Holly-Tone** at least 4 times during the growing season. Apply 1/4 cup per plant and distribute lightly over the entire root zone.

Uses

Indian Hawthorn are extremely salt tolerant and can be used in dune areas, as foundation plants or in shrub borders. They are also used in mass plantings, hedges and even containers. Taller varieties make excellent small trees.

Available Varieties

Rhaphiolepis indica "Alba": Clusters of white flowers in spring and again in fall. Maximum height of 4 feet. Most popular variety for Brevard County.

Rhaphiolepis Hybrid "Majestic Beauty": Clusters of pinkish flowers in spring and throughout the year. Maximum height of 10 to 12 feet, makes an excellent small tree or large shrub.

Plant Problems

Scale insects: Sucking type insects that remove plant juices through the underside of leaves.

Solution: Apply **All Seasons' Oil** or **Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench** following bottle instructions.

Fire Blight: Bacterial disease caused by over fertilizing with high nitrogen.

Solution: Use **Espoma Plant-tone** 4 times per year for the entire growing season.

