



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

'Magenta'

Hybrid Crabapple

Malus sp.

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA NRCS NAME Plant Materials Center, City, State



'Magenta' Hybrid Crabapple in full bloom

The USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources released 'Magenta' Hybrid Crabapple a multi-purpose plant for use as a shrub or small tree windbreak and rural roadside beautification in November, 1990.

Description

'Magenta' is an attractive compact tree, reaching heights of up to 30 feet that has ascending reddish-brown branches and a symmetrical pyramidal or rounded crown. The leaves are red in the spring and retain a reddish hue for most of the year. Attractive pink flowers cover the tree in May. The fruit is a dark-red pome, one-half inch in diameter that ripens in October.

Source

Magenta is a selection from Mich-860, grown from seed collected from Minnesota 6C, established in the arboretum of the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Station. In 1968 Minnesota 6C was named 'Radiant' and released by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. 'Radiant' crabapple is one of the 'Roseybloom' crabapples. The term 'Roseybloom' is not a cultivar name but rather designates a distinct race of crabapples consisting of all hybrid crabapples derived from Redvein crabapple. 'Magenta' was selected for its upright growth, large pink flowers and red leaves, which remain so throughout the spring and early summer. 'Magenta' is grown from open-

pollinated seed and may be selectively propagated by rouging the green leafed seedling from the propagation beds.

Conservation Uses

'Magenta' is intended for use as a shrub or small tree in single-row windbreaks, rural roadside beautification, wildlife food and cover and screen or spot plantings in recreational development. The fruit is attractive to songbirds and upland game birds.

Area of Adaptation and Use

'Magenta' can be grown wherever apples prove hardy. Its best adaptation is in the Midwestern and Northeastern parts of the country (plant hardiness zones 4, 5 and 6). 'Magenta' grows well in most kinds of soil although the best performance has been recorded on loam soils.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

To plant 'Magenta', follow the planting dates and spacing recommended for trees in your area. For windbreaks, the spacing between adjacent plants should be 6 to 10 feet. Two year old seedlings are recommended for planting.

To assure establishment, control weeds during the first few years. Once 'Magenta' is established, herbicides can be used for weed control. Whenever an herbicide is used, be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions carefully.



Close-up of 'Magenta' Hybrid Crabapple blossoms

Ecological Considerations

Like other crabapples, 'Magenta' is highly resistant to Cedar-Apple Rust and Fire Blight.

Seed and Plant Production

'Magenta' usually produces an average of 20 pounds of fruit or 0.5 pounds of cleaned seed per tree. Seedlings are easily propagated from seeds sown in nursery beds late in October. About 80 percent of the seedlings will be true to type. These are easily identified by their reddish leaves. The other 20 percent have green leaves and should be rouged from propagation beds. One pound of seed can produce over 20,000 plants.



'Magenta' being used as a windbreak



Young 'Magenta' seedlings being grown in containers

Availability

Planting stock of 'Magenta' is available from commercial nurseries in the Midwest. Commercial propagation is from open pollinated seed. Generation 1 (G1) seed is maintained by the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center in East Lansing, Michigan.

Contact your local NRCS Service Center for more information.



'Magenta' in bloom

For more information, contact:
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Release Brochure for 'Magenta' Hybrid Crabapple *Malus* sp, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI 48823, Published *November 1990*, Revised *January 2012*.

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>

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