



# 'Magenta'

## hybrid crabapple

*Malus sp.*



*'Magenta' Hybrid Crabapple in Full Bloom*

The USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources released 'Magenta' hybrid crabapple as a cultivar for use as a shrub or small tree windbreak and for rural roadside beautification in November 1990.

### Description

With ascending reddish-brown branches and a symmetrical pyramidal or rounded crown, 'Magenta' is an attractive, compact tree, reaching heights of up to 30 feet. 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 ½-inch diameter, dark-red pome 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 green-leaved seedlings from the propagation beds.

### Conservation Uses

Michigan NRCS technical specialists have determined that 'Magenta' is useful or potentially useful with these Conservation Practice Standards:

- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)

Its profuse spring flowers and dense foliage and abundant nectar and fruit make it a favorite of humans, honeybees, birds, and other wildlife.

### 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. 'Magenta' grows well in most kinds of soil although its 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. If herbicides are used, read and follow label directions.



*Close-up of 'Magenta' Hybrid Crabapple Blossoms*

### **Ecological Considerations**

Like other *Malus* species, 'Magenta' is susceptible to powdery mildew and other fungal diseases that can reduce fruit yield and damage trees. Treatments include fungicides applied according to label directions and cultural practices that remove diseased plant material.

### **Seed and Plant Production**

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.



*Young 'Magenta' Seedlings Being Grown in Cone-tainers®*

### **Availability**

'Magenta' hybrid crabapple, as well as other Rose Lake PMC releases, is available from commercial suppliers. Rose Lake PMC does not sell releases to the general public, although small quantities of seed are available to commercial seed or nursery growers for increase purposes.



*'Magenta' in Bloom*



*'Magenta' Being Used as a Windbreak*

*For more information, contact:*  
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### **Citation**

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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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