

European mountain ash

Sorbus aucuparia

Description

Used as farmstead windbreaks, furniture and tools, fruits are processed into jams or jellies and as a medicinal plant.

Habit

Deciduous; reaches heights of 25-30 ft and widths of 15-25 ft; gray-barked tree with spreading branches.

Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound, 5-9 in long, individual leaflets are serrated on their upper halves, 1-1.5 in long, dull dark green above and paler green below, in fall, red to yellow in color.

Stems

Light grayish brown; generally smooth; numerous lenticel when young.

Flowers

Inflorescence, large, flat-topped panicle; at least 75 flowers, calyx obconic, hairy, 5 lobes that are





triangular and persistent, 5 petals are white, nearly orbicular and 4 mm long, 15-20 stamens, equaling the petals, 3-4 carpels, styles are 2-3 mm long.

Fruits and Seeds

Small, orange-red fruits, 3/8 in in diameter are born in terminal clusters that ripen in fall.

Habitat

Native to Europe, North Africa and Western Asia. Prefers cool to cold climates, full sun, well drained, loamy acidic soils. Found in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil and/or drought are common.

Reproduction

By seed. Viable for 5 or more years; transported by birds.

Similar

American mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*); Western mountain ash (*Sorbus sitchensis*); Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull small seedlings or dig up young trees; can be effectively controlled using readily available general use herbicides.

Credits

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