

# About the Tree

Common name, Crab Apple.

Scientific name, *Malus sylvestris*.

It's a native Irish tree, very hardy and small to medium-sized. When mature, it can reach heights of up to 10 meters and spread about 8 meters. It produces mid-green oval leaves, pinkish-white blossoms, and small yellow-green, sometimes red-flushed crab apples that are edible when cooked and ideal for making jelly or wine.

**Benefits for wildlife:** The leaves are food for caterpillars. Flowers supply early pollen and nectar for insects, especially bees, while birds like blackbirds, thrushes, and crows eat the fruit. Mammals such as mice, voles, foxes, and badgers also feed from the crab apple fruit.

**Growing conditions:** Grows in moderately fertile, moist but well-drained soil, in full sun or partial shade. Ideal specimen for small gardens.



## Step-by-Step Guide to Planting a Crab Apple Tree

1. Dig a hole that is wider than the pot, providing ample space for the roots to spread out.
2. Carefully remove the sapling from its pot. Gently tease the roots without trying to untangle them completely, to encourage fresh growth
3. Place the tree in the hole without adding compost. Ensure it is positioned at the same depth as it was in the pot.
4. Insert a stake next to the base of the sapling to support it. The stake shouldn't be too tall, so it allows the top of the tree to move freely.
5. Fill the hole with soil, ensuring the roots are firmly in the ground, creating a cone-like shape.
6. Tie the tree to the stake using a tree tie, ensuring it is secure but not too tight.
7. Water thoroughly after planting to help settle the soil around the roots.
8. Apply a generous layer of mulch around the base of the tree to retain moisture and suppress weeds

You can send us a picture of your planted tree at :  
[info@corkchamber.ie](mailto:info@corkchamber.ie)

