

# Mayhaw

**DID YOU KNOW  
MAYHAW IS IN THE  
SAME FAMILY AS THE  
ROSE?**

## WHAT IS A MAYHAW?

Mayhaw fruit are small, red berries that resemble the cranberry in shape and size. Mayhaw fruit has a subtle flavor. It is often used to make tart jam, jelly, and syrup. The mayhaw berries are high in Vitamins C and A. They are rich in antioxidants, which prevent disease as well as improve circulation, lower blood pressure, and reduce cholesterol.

## HOW TO PLANT MAYHAWS

Mayhaw trees should be planted about 15 to 20 feet apart. You can expect your plants to reach a height of about 30 feet. The best time to plant is in the fall/winter (when the plant is dormant) or in the spring before it has leafed out for the season. To plant, dig a hole twice as wide and deep as needed. Mix a combination of 25% compost with 75% of your soil. Fill the bottom half of the hole around your tree with enough of your soil mix so that the surface of the root ball is flush with the ground. After planting, backfill the hole with the rest of your soil mixture and add more water to prevent air pockets. Keep your tree well-watered during the dry season.



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

After planting, be sure to water your mayhaw every few days for the first two weeks. Keep it moist. Mayhaw plants are found in swampy areas and are tolerant of wet soils, but grow best in well-drained soils. They thrive in both full sun and in partial shade. For prime growing conditions, the soil should have a pH of 6.0 to 6.5.

## COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

As with any other fruit trees, mayhaw trees are susceptible to several diseases and pests which you will need to be on the lookout for. Aphids, thrips, leaf miners, mealybugs and whiteflies are common pests that may feed on the foliage, flower, fruit and wood of the tree. It is important to check on your mayhaw tree regularly to identify and treat common pests with an organic insecticide.

### Fireblight

Fireblight, a bacterial infection, can infect your mayhaw plant starting with the blossoms, and then traveling down the branches to the trunk. Infected blossoms and branches turn black, curling over. You should cut the infected areas with sanitized pruners to remove the areas with blight. To protect your mayhaw, spray it with a copper fungicide before blooming to help slow the spread of fireblight in your plant.

### Quince Rust

Mayhaw plants are also vulnerable to quince rust as well as cedar-apple rust and juniper rust. This disease is spread from quince, junipers and red cedars. Evidence of quince rust can be found in swollen plant tissue. Leaf veins infected with rust will curl before turning black and dying off. White tube-like projections will appear on infected fruit. The tubes will split spreading orange spores on the fruit's surface. You will have dieback on the twigs that will need to be removed. The plant should be treated with an organic fungicide.

**BOB WELLS NURSERY**

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