



HAWTHORN (*Crataegus monogyna*)

ALL ABOUT THE HAWTHORN

- The hawthorn has bark which is a dark orange-brown when it is young, that turns grey-green and scaly when it's older - just like getting wrinkles!
- Hawthorn leaves are around 3-5cm long, bright green and have a roughly toothed edge. The hawthorn is deciduous so the leaves turn yellow-red in autumn before falling off and growing again in spring.
- Hawthorn is also known as the May tree because that's when it flowers. It has white, strong-smelling flowers.
- Hawthorn fruits are bright red oval berries known as haws. They are edible but raw berries may give you a tummy ache!
- Be careful of getting too close to hawthorns - they have spikes along the branches but this makes them the perfect place for birds to hide their nests from predators.



HOW BIG IS IT?

The hawthorn tree can grow up to 10 metres tall and is usually between 3 to 8 metres wide.

WHAT SORT OF LEAVES DOES IT HAVE?

Draw a leaf from this tree here, or why not collect one and stick it here instead?

WHY NOT COLOUR ME IN?

AMAZING FACT

Some people believed it was bad luck to bring hawthorn blossom indoors, but the flowers were often used for decorating outside houses as part of May Day celebrations.

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