

Crataegus marshallii

Parsley hawthorn



Sources:

Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS Database*. United States Department of Agriculture.

NC State. *North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox*.

The Rose Family (Rosaceae)

Parsley hawthorn is a shrub to small tree with irregular, open crown; alternate, deciduous lacy leaves; greenish-tan, exfoliating bark and twigs with sharp spines.

Habitat:

It prefers sandy, alluvial woods and low pastures.

Interesting Facts:

The common name refers to the deeply cut foliage that looks similar to parsley. Flowers have a very conspicuous fishy or rotten scent. Fruit made into jellies, jams, or eaten raw. Tonics and teas from leaves used to treat heart diseases and high blood pressure.

Fruit:

The fruit is .375" long, bright red, oblong drupe containing 1 to 3 seeds, maturing in fall.

Flower:

The flower has five white petals, red and white stamens, .625" wide, in clusters during early spring.

Wildlife value:

It is valuable nectar source for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators; foliage eaten by white-tailed deer; in fall/winter fruit consumed by songbirds and small mammals.