Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator

Malus 'DurLeo'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: Roseybloom, Crabapple

Description:

An exciting new introduction, this is a very hardy, narrowly upright to columnar ornamental tree with showy pink flowers followed by smallish purple fruit and rich burgundy-purple leaves all season; use for its distinctive form

Ornamental Features

Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator is covered in stunning clusters of fragrant pink flowers along the branches in mid spring, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds before the leaves. It has attractive deep purple deciduous foliage which emerges burgundy in spring. The pointy leaves are highly ornamental and turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy purple pomes carried in abundance from early to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening

Planting & Growing

Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (2): Blooms in spring; then set 3/8 to 1/2 inch berries that birds eats during winter. Berries are persistent, meaning they stay on the tree until they dry. The dried berries and leaves can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged.



Crabapple, Flowering Gladiator in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder