

TECHNICAL NOTES

U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

ROOM 101, 1405 SOUTH HARRISON ROAD
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIAL - FOR USE ONLY WITHIN THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

PLANT MATERIALS #7
SUBJECT: 'Roselow' Sargent
Crabapple
DATE: November 28, 1978

To: All Offices

From: Robert R. Ditson, State Resource Conservationist

'Roselow' Sargent crabapple, Malus sargentii (Rehd.), was tested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center in East Lansing, Michigan. It was grown from seed collected from established trees in evaluation plantings at the plant materials center in Elsberry, Missouri. The trees at Elsberry were established as seedlings from seed of Malus sargentii obtained in 1940 from the horticultural farm at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Malus sargentii was originally introduced from Japan. Being from the Orient, it is not an alternate host for the juniper rust.



Description: 'Roselow' Sargent crabapple is an attractive, small, moundlike crabapple that branches densely and is covered with pure white fragrant blossoms in mid-May. It reaches a height of about 2.5 meters (8 feet) and a width of about 3 meters (10 feet). The fruit is dark red and about 6 millimeters (0.25 inch) in diameter. The fruit colors before the leaves drop and remains on the plant well into the winter.

Conservation Use Or Potential: 'Roselow' Sargent crabapple is an excellent shrub in field and farmstead windbreaks for rural roadside beautification, for wildlife food and cover and for border or spot plantings in recreational developments. The small red fruit is attractive to songbirds and upland game birds.

Site Adaptation: Sargent crabapple can be grown wherever apples prove hardy. The cultivar 'Roselow' has been tested in the Midwest and as far west as Corvallis, Oregon. Establishment and performance have been good. It is adapted to a wide variety of soils but maintains better growth on light sandy



a

soils. It will grow on droughty sites but the annual growth is slow. 'Roselow' is tolerant of some shade however, it produces more fruit in full sunlight.

Management: In field plantings weeds should be controlled the first few years of establishment. Plants must be protected from deer and rabbits until they are well established. Selective approved herbicides can be used to control weeds after establishment. Be sure to follow manufacturer's recommended rates and times of application and note any restrictions.

Availability Of Seed Or Planting Stock: The propagation of 'Roselow' is from open-pollinated seed. Eight year old plants at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center average about 12 kilograms (27 pounds) of fruit per tree. This amount of fruit provides about 0.4 kilogram (0.8 pound) of clean seed. Seedlings are easily propagated from seed sown in nursery beds in late October. It is estimated that 0.45 kilogram (1 pound) of seed will produce 5,000 plants. Breeder seed is maintained by the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center. The seed supply of 'Roselow' is very limited now but should be available in sufficient quantities in a few years.

Prepared by: Dorian A. Carroll
Plant Materials Specialist

3002A

(

(

ROSELOW URGENT CRABAPPLE (Malus sargentii)
For Windbreaks, Wildlife and Environmental Improvement
In Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin

Description: Roselow Sargent crabapple (Malus sargentii) has been released by the Ecological Sciences Division of the Soil Conservation Service as an improved variety of Sargent crabapple. Roselow is a rounded and densely branched shrub. One of the smallest crabapples, its pink buds produce single white flowers about one half inch in diameter. Dark red fruit appears before the leaves drop and remains on the plant all winter.

Conservation Use: Roselow can be used in both field and farmstead windbreaks. Its low growth permits use under center pivot irrigation systems. Being densely twigged it acts as a good snow barrier. Its abundant tiny red fruits attract songbirds and upland game birds. Roselow is also useful for beautification and landscape plantings.

Site: Roselow can grow wherever apples prove hardy, but it has been grown primarily in the Midwest and Northeast. It is adapted to a wide variety of soils but grows better on sandy soils where rainfall is adequate. The optimum pH is 6.5 - 7.5.

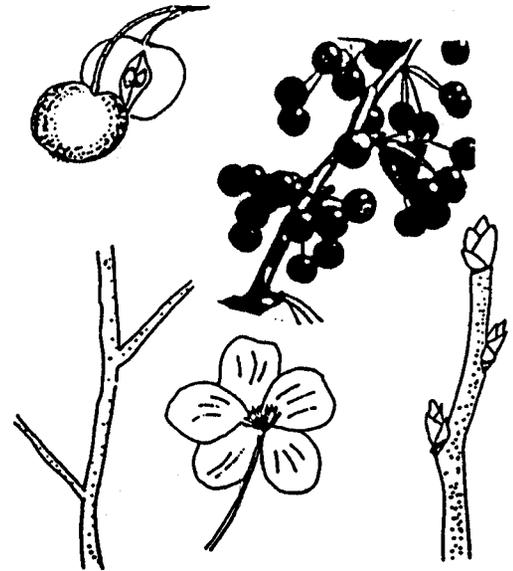
Site Preparation: Prepare site by plowing or disking if equipment can be used. Approved herbicides may also be used for perennial weed and grass control. Minimum soil preparation should consist of scalping sod off an area at least one foot across.

Date of Planting: Plant in early spring, as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

Planting Method: Plants may be planted by hand or with a tree planter. Two year old seedlings are suitable for mechanical planting. The maximum spacing between plants should be 6 feet for windbreaks. A 12x12 foot spacing is recommended for clump plantings.

Management: Weed control is necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. Control weeds the first year by cultivation. Once Roselow is established, use approved herbicides for effective weed control. Whenever herbicides are used, be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions carefully.

Nursery Propagation: Seedlings are easily grown from seeds sown in nursery beds in late October. There are about 50,000 seeds per pound which should produce about 5,000 useable plants. For seedling production follow normal nursery operating procedures.



Dorian A. Carroll, Plant Materials Specialist
U.S. Soil Conservation Service
East Lansing, Michigan
2-12-85

