Common Name: Indian Hawthorn

Scientific Name: *Rhaphiolepis indica*

Order: Rosales

Family: Rosaceae

Description
Indian Hawthorns are small, compact, evergreen shrubs that are easy to maintain and are some of very few shrubs that are recommended where you have to control their height. They have oblong leaves that are dark green at the top and a lighter shade of green on the bottom, that usually grow 3-4 inches in length. Indian hawthorns have flowers that are star shaped on the tips of the branches and are white or light pink colored. The flowers usually have five pedals and can have a certain fragrance to them. They also produce bluish-black berries that some birds and cedar waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) will consume.

Growth Habit
Indian hawthorn grows about 12-14 inches per year and produce flowers in the spring that are very attractive to many landscapers. They also produce berries that usually contain one or two seeds. Indian hawthorns usually do not grow over 6 feet tall and, with proper pruning, can be kept at pretty much any desirable height.

Hardiness Zone(s)
Indian hawthorn grows best in USDA Zones 8-11.

Culture
These plants do best when given little to no shade. They must have well drained soil and do not require a lot of irrigation. Overhead irrigation is not recommended. They are very rugged and can take being neglected, and still produce very nice flowers. Oil sprays are not recommended for use on Indian hawthorns. They do best in areas that do not reach subzero temperatures at any time during the year. They produce berries that last through the fall and winter.

Diseases & Insects
Indian hawthorn has only one major threat as far as disease and insects go. Entomosporium leaf spot causes small, red, round spots on the top and bottom sides of younger leaves. Choosing the correct cultivar, watering with a drip system, and allowing the plants plenty of room for air flow are a few ways you can help prevent the leaf spot. It is most damaging after heavy rainfall.

Landscape Value
Indian hawthorn is a great landscaping plant because it can be planted in areas that receive a lot of sun. When placed in area that gets sun all day long, they can fulfill their flowering potential and be very beautiful to the landscaper. When placed in a slightly shaded area, their growth is
stunted and they cannot produce flowers quite as well. They are also a great landscape plant because they build themselves up a mound like structure in the dirt and this helps with the drainage that is required for these plants to reach their full flowering potential.

References
