

# 'Roselow' Sargent's Crabapple

'Roselow' Sargent's Crabapple (*Malus sargentii* Rehd.) Is a small dense-branching mound like crabapple that is covered with pure white fragrant blossoms in mid-May. The combination of desirable characteristics makes this plant valuable to multi-purpose uses. It can be used in both farmstead and field windbreaks and its abundant tiny red fruit attract songbirds.

## Description

'Roselow' is a rounded and densely branched shrub. One of the smallest crabapples, it reaches a height of only 8 feet. In mid-May, its pin buds produce single white flowers about one-half inch in diameter. Dark red fruit appear before the leaves drop and remain on the plant all winter.

It is considered a prolific fruit producer. It is released as an open-pollinated seed propagated cultivar. It exhibits excellent uniformity in size, form and fruit color from seed. Propagation by commercial growers will be from open-pollinated seed.

'Roselow' usually produces an abundant crop of fruit averaging 27 pounds per shrub. Each shrub provides 0.8 pounds of clean seed. Seedlings are easily propagated from seeds sown in nursery beds in late October. One pound of seed will produce about 5000 plants.



## Origin

'Roselow' Sargent's Crabapple seed was first collected from evaluation plantings by the NRCS and Elsberry Plant Materials Center in Missouri. NRCS established the shrubs in 1940 at Elsberry using seedlings obtained from the horticultural farm at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. It was originally introduced from Japan. It has been assigned the NRCS accession No.477986.

## Adaptation

'Roselow' can grow wherever apples prove hardy, although it has been grown primarily in the East and Midwest. Both establishment and performance have been good. The shrub is adapted to a wide variety of soils, but grows best on sandy soils where rainfall is adequate.

## Establishment

To plant 'Roselow', follow the planting dates and spacing recommended for shrubs in your area. In the temperate zone, it should be planted in the spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground, generally before May 15<sup>th</sup> or June 1<sup>st</sup>. The maximum spacing between plants should be 10 feet. Two year old seedlings are suitable for mechanical planting.

Like other crabapples, 'Roselow' is susceptible to borers, the eastern tent caterpillar, and San Jose scale. Because it is a native of the Orient, it is not an alternate host for juniper rust.

## Availability

'Roselow' planting stock is generally available from commercial nurseries in the Midwest. Commercial nurseries use open-pollinated seed to propagate the shrub. Natural Resources Conservation Service maintains breeder seed at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center.



### **For More Information**

To find more information on using plants to solve conservation problems, please visit our website

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

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