

CRATAEGUS UNIFLORA Muenchh.
Dwarf Hawthorn

FAMILY: Rosaceae

HABIT: Deciduous shrub to 1.5 m; flowers May, fruits October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It is extremely difficult to accurately identify most members of the genus. All are superficially similar and can only be separated by close examination of flower and fruit, or leaf and branch characters. *C. uniflora* is somewhat more distinctive than other Ohio Hawthorns because of its unusual dwarf habit. The epithet "*uniflora*" is misleading in that there may be as many as 5 flowers in the inflorescence.

TOTAL RANGE: L.I. and PA to FL, w. to OH, MO, and e. TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Lawrence, Meigs, and Vinton counties.

HABITAT: In full sun in well-drained openings, usually on calcareous substrates.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by taller trees as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good. Hawthorns are difficult to identify and careful surveys may locate new populations in the state.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature specimens with flowers or fruits; note growth habit of plant.

COMMENTS: The genus *Crataegus* has not been extensively studied in Ohio since Palmer (1956). Many botanists neglect the genus because of the notorious difficulty in identifying plants to species. *C. uniflora* should be sought in suitable habitat in southern Ohio and especially in Adams County.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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