

Parsley haw

(*Crataegus marshallii*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Parsley haw is a deciduous flowering shrub or small tree. Its many showy flowers have five white to pinkish petals and conspicuous red anthers. Leaves are triangular with deeply incised lobes and toothed margins. They are alternately arranged. Fruits are bright red, apple-like berries. The plant is often multi-trunked with scaly grayish bark. Branches are usually thorny.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo

Parsley haw occurs naturally in moist wooded slopes, floodplains and riverine forests. Its flowers, which bloom in the spring, are an important source of nectar for a variety of pollinators. The plant is a larval food source for many butterfly and moth species, and provides food and shelter for birds and small mammals.

The genus *Crataegus* comes from the Greek word *kratus* or “strong” (referring to the wood) and *akakia* or *akis*, which means “thorn.” The common name “Parsley haw” refers to the resemblance of the leaves to those of the herb parsley.

Family: Rosaceae (Rose family)

Native range: Panhandle, north and west-central peninsula

To see where natural populations of Parsley haw have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Hardiness: Zones 8a–9b

Soil: Moist sand or loamy soil

Exposure: Full sun to full shade

Growth habit: up to 20' tall

Propagation: Seeds, cuttings, grafting

Garden tips: Parsley haw makes a great addition to a home landscape provided it has consistent soil moisture. Its leaves, flowers and fruits are colorful and attractive, and its bark provides winter interest.

Parsley haw plants are occasionally available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit PlantRealFlorida.org to find a native nursery on your area.