

MALUS – PRUNUS – PYRUS ... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

TREE FORMS/SHAPES:

Apple (*Malus*)



... typically low, spreading, domed, 4-12m.

Cherry (*Prunus*)



... typically low, spreading, vase-shaped, 8-16m.

Pear (*Pyrus*)



... typically tall, upright, spreading, lofty, 8-18m.

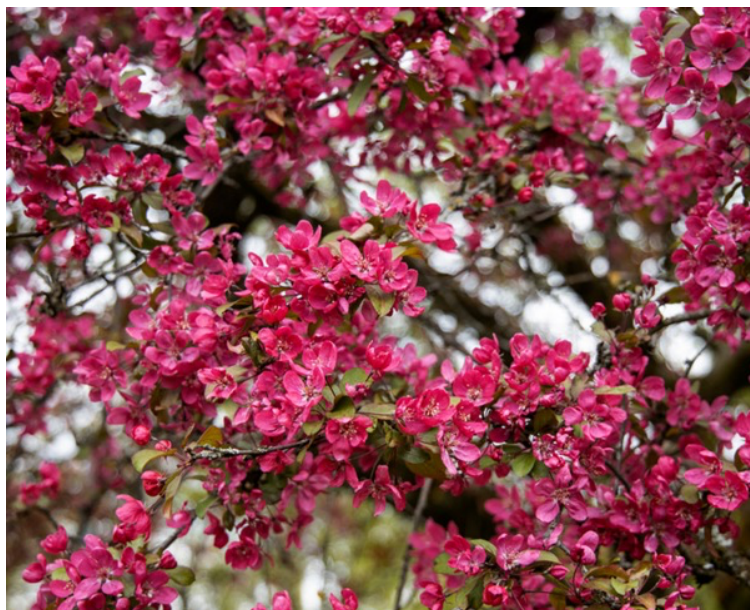
However, a vast range of crown shapes/sizes exist throughout each genera – including broad/narrow fastigate, pendulous/parasol weeping and arching/spreading domes.

FLOWER COLOURS – PETALS/STAMENS/STIGMAS:

Apple (*Malus*)



Malus sylvestris



Malus floribunda Hillieri

Flower colours: all shades of white > white flushed pink > pale to deep pink.

Key: multiple male stamen are yellow; with several female stigma fused together.

Note: some *Malus* species are armoured with short spurs or thorns.

Cherry (*Prunus*)



Prunus serrulata Ukon



Prunus campanulata

Flower colours: all shades of white > cream > yellow > pale to deep-pink.

Key: multiple male stamen are orange, pink, deep-pink; with single, free, female stigma.

Note: most *Prunus* species have glands (extrafloral nectaries) on the petiole, near leaf base.

Pear (*Pyrus*)



Pyrus communis



Pyrus calleryana

Flower colours: all shades of white > white flushed pink > pale to deep pink.

Key: multiple male stamen are dark-pink or purple; with several, free, female stigma.

Note: several *Pyrus* species are armoured with long stiff thorns.