



NATIVE BLACK HAWTHORN

INVASIVE ENGLISH HAWTHORN

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# A (HAW-)THORNY ISSUE

## DEAR CONSERVATION EASEMENT PARTNER,

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You've seen them all over our islands—thorny tangles of English Hawthorne (*Crataegus monogyna*), which are especially visible along the borders of farm fields and meadows. European settlers introduced this member of the rose family for use as a hedgerow or “living fence,” a traditional English practice. Unfortunately, English Hawthorn—now classified as a Class C noxious weed—spreads easily and creates dense thickets that choke out native plants and grasses.

If only those homesteaders had used a similar thorny shrub that was already here and native to the islands: Black Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*). Black Hawthorne provides good cover for wildlife, flowering habitat for native pollinators, and nesting sites for thrushes and other birds, some of whom also like to feed on its berries.

Before you decide to remove hawthorn from your property, make sure you are targeting the invasive type. A few key characteristics will help you distinguish native Black Hawthorn from invasive English Hawthorn. Native *Crataegus douglasii* (*front, left*) has weakly lobed leaves (not deeply lobed), dark blue to blackish berries (not bright to deep red), and flowers containing five styles (not one).

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For help in hawthorn ID or suggestions for invasive hawthorn control, contact a member of your Stewardship team at 360-317-1180.

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