



Alternatives for the Flowering Crab & Ornamental Pear

The Flowering crabs are hosts to the codling moth, the pest associated with the apple and pear industry. Even though the fruit on these ornamental trees is very small, codling moths still find them to be a favourable host. Because of their sheer size and abundance of fruit, it is very difficult for the average homeowner to keep them free of this pest.

There are three ways to control the codling moth on ornamental crabs and for that matter on any apple, pear or quince variety. One is to spray. The second method of control is to remove the fruit after it has formed and destroy it. The third method is to remove the tree altogether and replant with a non target species of flowering tree.

Obviously the last method is the most effective way to control the codling moth.

Here is a list of beautiful trees which are legitimate substitutes:

- *Flowering Hawthorne* – including Paul's scarlet, toba & crimson cloud.
- *Eastern red bud* – A bit difficult to establish but does very well here.
- *Flowering Plum* – including pissardi, blirieana and triloba.
- *Horse Chestnut* – both red and white.
- *Magnolia* – from the smaller star magnolia to the magnificent saucer magnolia.
- *Golden Rain Tree* – a Great summer blooming tree that thrives here.
- *Top grafted Lilac* – makes a small but colourful specimen for modest sized yards.
- *Golden Chain* – small tree suited to small areas with chains of golden yellow flowers in May.
- *May Day tree and Swedish May Day tree* – the latter with pink blossoms and purple foliage.
- *Purple Robe Robinia* – a tree suited to dry conditions with panicles of purple flowers in the spring.
- *Mountain Ash* – two or three varieties suited to the Okanagan with blossoms in the spring and berries in the fall and winter.
- *Ivory silk Lilac* – upright compact oval tree with creamy white flowers to 23 ft tall.
- *Japanese tree Lilac* – upright spreading tree with creamy white flowers in early summer.