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Hamden Tree Commission**

Hamden Tree Commission Names “Notable Tree” for December 2021

Hamden, CT – December 22, 2021

The Hamden Tree Commission is delighted to name this Winter King hawthorn tree (*Crataegus viridis*) as the Hamden Notable Tree for the month of December. The tree is one of five planted in 2015, along Dixwell Avenue adjacent to Miller Memorial Library.

Its red fruits, which ripen in September and persist into winter, are not only striking but are also edible. Delicate, fragrant white flowers bloom in mid-May after the leaves appear. The 3” long rounded, shallowly-lobed leaves are dark green and turn orange-red in the fall. The bark of mature trees exfoliates revealing orangish brown inner bark. The species is native to the southeastern United States.

The variety ‘Winter King’ has outstanding ornamental features and is tough, but is underutilized in urban landscapes. It is a small tree, 25’ at maturity, with a lovely rounded canopy that is attractive the entire year. Its branches may have a few small thorns and thus need some pruning for vehicle and pedestrian clearance. Although it does well in dry, poor soil, it is intolerant to road salt. The variety is known for its resistance to diseases and pests that affect many hawthorn and apple trees; however, the hawthorn trees at this location have been attacked by gypsy moth, two species of scale insects, and cedar-hawthorn rust, which infects both leaves and fruit.

If you would like to nominate a tree, please send its location and a few sentences describing the tree to: help@hamden.com. Please include your name, address, email, and phone number as well. Or you can mail your nomination to the Hamden Tree Commission care of the Mayor’s Office, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518.

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Abbreviated version:

The Hamden Tree Commission is delighted to name this Winter King hawthorn tree (*Crataegus viridis*) as the Hamden Notable Trees for the month of December, 2021. It is an underutilized landscape tree noted for its bright red fruit, which appear in early autumn and persist into winter.

