

Local Plants: *Sharinbai* (Yeddo Hawthorn; *Rhaphiolepis umbellata*)

This small shrub grows wild along the Japanese coast, and is also commonly planted in gardens, parks, and highway median strips. Native to both Japan and Korea, it reaches a height of around 1 meter. Its leathery leaves are egg-shaped, with a somewhat serrated edge. In May, five-petaled white or pink-tinged flowers bloom toward the tips of the branches. The spherical fruits ripen from November to December, turning black with a dusting of white powder. In Japan, the plant is traditionally boiled to produce a dyeing agent.