

### **Malus for pollinating Katy**

Information sources, Bean & Hillier's Manual

**M. floribunda**: good pollen source, one of the earliest to flower, April- May, but tree rather shrubby with arching branches. [Needing annual hard pruning I would think]  
**x purpurea** similar to floribunda but tree more erect and open. Purple flowers mid-late April.

**'Golden Gem'**: early flowering, finished by May. No further info. Is this confused with Gibb's Golden Gage which was originally acquired as a pollinator for Ashton Bitter? If so, it has proved to be a very early flowering one, much to my shame!

**'Hopa'**: vigorous upright grower, pink flowers are a good pollen source in late April-early May.

**x robusta**: rather large white flowers in April are not ideal pollen source, otherwise good.

**x robusta erecta**: similar but the tree is of fastigiate habit and probably easier to manage.

**'Red Sentinel'**: probably a form of x robusta. Flowers white in early May, good source of pollen.

**NB**: Field trials since large scale planting of Ashton Bitter, confirm that its flowering time is on average, much later than recorded in the original ADAS trial. Peak flowering is often in the last 2 weeks of May.

Few of these Malus flower late enough to be useful pollinators for it.