

## Greene's Mountain-Ash



A shrub or small tree with compound leaves of many narrow leaflets, dense flat clusters of small white flowers in June and July, and in fall clusters of red or red-orange fruit like tiny apples. Greene's mountain-ash, which is not a true ash tree, grows in shaded moist places in forest glens and mountain canyons from about 6,000 to 10,000 feet (1800 to 3000 m) elevation, along both sides of the Continental Divide, and is more common at higher elevations on the western slope. It can reach 20 feet (6 m) in height and 4 inches (10 cm) in stem diameter. The fruit is eaten by numerous birds, and by marten and fisher. Deer, elk, and moose browse the twigs.

The tree is named for Edward L. Greene who first described it. It is also called the Rowan tree, a traditional name for the European mountain-ash of the same genus (*Sorbus*), which also can propagate naturally in Colorado. The scientific name of Greene's Mountain-Ash is *Sorbus scopulina*, *scopulina* meaning "of the rocks."

### Identification

Leaves: 4 to 9 inches (10 to 22 cm) long, **compound, 11 to 15 leaflets, each leaflet 1 to 2 inches long**, (2.5 to 5 cm) sharply toothed nearly to the base, narrow, and very sharply pointed. Colorful in fall. True sumac leaves are similar in shape but much larger.

Fruit: Each berry 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch (6 to 9 mm) diameter, numerous in flat clusters 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) across, in August.

Bark: thin, reddish brown, smooth or slightly scaly.