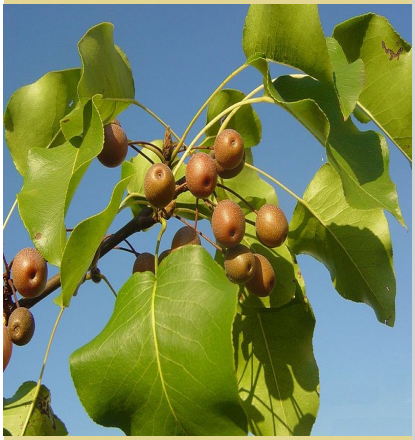
NATURAL BIODIVERSITY

BIØBullies

Callery/ Bradford Pear

Pyrus calleryana

Impacts:
Callery Pear is a prolific seed producer, grows rapidly, and can overrun native vegetation. It competes with natives for water, soil, and space. Once established, it can quickly take over a site and form an impenetrable thicket.



Suspected Means of Introduction:
Callery Pear was brought in from Vietnam and China and was first introduced to America in 1909 to the Arnold Arboretum. It was reintroduced by the USDA in 1916 to try to develop a prevention of the fire blight that was affecting the common pear trees.

Description: Callery Pear is a medium sized deciduous tree that can reach a height of 30-50ft. It has alternate, simple, broad-ovate leaves that are 2-3 inches long. Leaves can range from a light to drak green and have a waxy finish with a wavy edge. In the fall, leaves turn a deep red color with purple hues. It is one of the earliest trees to flower and even before the leaves are present. The flowers are white, five petals, and about an inch across. The fruit of a Callery Pear is present in the fall. It appears as a small, hard, round fruit with 2-4 black seeds inside of it. Seeds spread by small mammals and birds that eat the fruit. The Callery Pear is known to give off a putrid odor.

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Native Range: China and Vietnam

Habitat: Callery Pears are known to grow along roadways and in successional old fields. They are very adaptable to many different soil types including occasional wet soils or even drought. They are resistant to the harshness of urban living, such as pollution and poor soil. Callery Pear grows best in full sun although it will tolerate some shade.

Biology: Callery Pear is a simple perennial plant which reproduces through seed production. The seeds are located inside small, hard, almost wood like fruit. Birds and small mammals eat the fruit and disperse the seeds to new locations.

Control Methods: Young seedlings and shallow rooted plants can be pulled or dug up when the soil is moist, taking care to remove all root fragments. Cutting larger trees can reduce spread by seed but will not kill the tree. It can be controlled using glyphosate and triclopyr-based herbicides. The cut-stump, foliar spray, basal bark, or hack and squirt are all methods of application that will work for this species. Basal bark treatments may be the easiest, as it involves no cutting. When using herbicides, read the label and follow all state and federal requirements.

Native Alternatives :

- Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)
- Native sweet crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)
- Cockspur hawthorne (Crataegus crus-galli)
- Green hawthorne (Crataegus viridis)

Resources for Identification and Control of Callery Pear

Headwaters Invasive Plant Partnership

University of Illinois Extension - Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties

Plant Profile Database - USDA

Weed of the Week - USDA Forest Service

Midwest Invasive Plant Network

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