

# *Pyrus calleryana* - Callery Pear (*Rosaceae*)

*Pyrus calleryana* is a tree grown for its pyramidal, symmetrical growth habit that rapidly establishes in the landscape. Callery Pear is known for its glossy, dense, dark green foliage that ripples in the breeze, good but very late autumn color, and especially for its white dense showy inflorescences in spring.

## Form



## FEATURES

- medium-sized ornamental tree, which can double as a shade tree at maturity
- cultivars mature at about 45' tall x 20' wide, on average
- upright pyramidal to upright columnar growth habit in youth, becoming upright oval, broad oval, or spreading with maturity (depending upon cultivar)

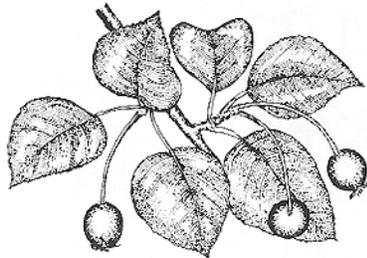
-rapid growth rate, especially in youth

## Culture

- full sun to partial sun
- very adaptable to poor soils, clay soils, soils of various pH, restricted root zones, pollution, drought, heat, and heavy pruning
- cultivars are propagated primarily by grafting onto rootstock
- Rose Family, with all modern cultivars resistant to fireblight in northern areas of its range, but many cultivars susceptible to fireblight in southern regions; no other serious disease or pest problems exist
- abundantly available in B& B or container form

## Foliage

- medium-green to dark green, very glossy, alternate, ovate to broad-ovate to orbicular, with a cordate to truncate base, acuminate tip, and finely serrated margins
- often holds its green summer color well into Nov. or Dec., with autumn color being quite variable with the cultivar and given year, being green, purple, orange, yellow, red, or often a mixture of the above colors



## Flowers

-white 3" wide showy inflorescences, in mid- to late-Apr. from the spur shoots, effective for 1 week as they emerge before or with the foliage

## Fruits

-green-brown to yellowish green with subtle small dots, inconspicuous due to the faded color and being hidden by the dense foliage on the spur shoots

## Twigs

-reddish-brown to gray and stout, with relatively large, fuzzy, light tan-gray terminal buds on the spur shoots and branch tips

## Trunk

-gray and fissuring with age, and often showing the swollen graft union at the base of the trunk

## USAGE

### Function

-specimen, focal point, border, entranceway, shade, and especially as a street tree, often planted due to its quick establishment and showy spring flowers

## Texture

- medium texture in foliage and bold texture when bare
- thick density in foliage and when bare

## Assets

- rapid growth and establishment
- spring-flowering accent ornamental tree
- glossy dark green foliage flutters in the breeze
- good to excellent late autumn color
- good street tree (when young)
- good shade tree when mature (if it is limbed up)

## Liabilities

- the major liability is poor branching habit, prone to breakage in storms (especially for the formerly popular 'Bradford')
- most modern cultivars are still susceptible to storm damage to the canopy with age, despite their better branching habits and advertisements to this effect
- all current cultivars are resistant to fireblight in their northern regions, but this can be a moderately serious problem for some cultivars in the humid southern regions

## Habitat

- Zones 4 to 8 for most cultivars (a notable exception is 'Bradford', rated for zones 5 to 8)
- Native to Korea and China

## SELECTIONS

### Alternates

- white spring-flowering trees (*Cercis canadensis* 'Alba' (var. *alba*), *Cornus florida*, *Magnolia stellata*, *Malus* 'White Angel', etc.)
- trees with strongly ascending branches or co-dominant leaders (*Acer x freemanii*, *Amelanchier* [tree form], *Carpinus betulus*, etc.)

### Cultivars – Variants – Related species

-all of the cultivars of Callery Pear noted below are commonly to abundantly available:

- 'Aristocrat' - attractive wavy leaf margin is unique among all cultivars, not as densely flowering as others but still a knockout for its flowers, excellent red to yellow autumn color, fireblight susceptibility in southern states, to 45' x 25'

- 'Autumn Blaze' - spectacular crimson autumn color defoliates by mid-Oct., allowing autumn transplanting for those willing to take the risk, with a somewhat horizontal habit at maturity that is atypical, having very few thorns and susceptible to fireblight in southern areas, to 40' x 30'



- 'Chanticleer' (also known as 'Cleveland Select', 'Select', or 'Stone Hill') - increasingly popular and with several cultivar names, a good urban tolerant cultivar, densely flowering and with good red-orange autumn color, with an upright pyramidal form, to 35' x 20'

- 'Redspire' - narrow pyramidal crown at maturity, very urban tolerant, good yellow and red autumn foliage, purported to have one of the best branching habits, susceptible to fireblight in southern regions, to 45' x 25'

**Note:** 'Bradford' - this is the once extremely popular selection that should absolutely not be used today

