

## CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

### *Invasive Plant Fact Sheet*

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

Also called: Bradford pear



**Family name:** Rose family (Roseaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**General:** Deciduous tree of up to 45 feet tall. Pyramidal growth pattern. Young bark is smoothish with horizontal lenticels while older bark shows vertical fissures.

**Leaves:** Alternate, oval, glossy above, and smooth.

**Flowers:** White with 5 petals, about 0.75 inches wide, appearing in late March through April *before* leaf out.

**Fruit:** Round, brownish with whitish specks, 0.5 inches across. Ripening in September through October.

**Look-alikes:** Cultivated apple (*Malus* spp.) and pear (*Pyrus* spp.) trees are similar to Callery pear, but can be differentiated by their fruits.

**Habitat:** Meadow, roadside, yard edge, open woods.



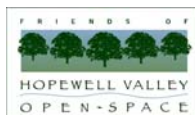
**Threats to native habitats:** Callery pear forms dense stands and outcompetes native plants in open areas and prevents natural succession. It has an additional competitive advantage of early leaf out. The tree is then able shade out later blooming plants.

**NJ Status:** Callery pear is uncommon, but spreading rapidly. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.



**Commercial Availability:** Callery pear is widely planted in landscaping and along streets.

Sources: <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/trees/pyca.html>  
Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture  
Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org>  
<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/pyca.html>  
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. *Plants of Pennsylvania*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 651-2.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, [www.fohvos.org](http://www.fohvos.org) or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, [www.urwa.org](http://www.urwa.org).

