

Wisconsin Invasive Plant Identification

Callery/Bradford pear - *Pyrus calleryana*

Life History: Callery (Bradford) pear is an urban tree that has been planted in the Midwest for decades. It grows up to 60 ft tall and produces fragrant white flowers in early spring. Plants spread by birds eating fruit and depositing seed on nearby roadsides, grasslands, and forest edges. These seeds make dense patches that impact these habitats.

Leaves: Alternate, simple leaves are 2-3" long, shiny, with toothed margins. Leaf blade is thick, egg-shaped, and often has a prolonged tip. Leaf buds have distinct woolly scales in spring.

Stem/Root: Tree that spreads via seeds. Trunk is grey and bumpy like other cultivated pear varieties. Branches tend to droop to make arch-like growth patterns over time.



Adult trees can reach heights up to 60 feet and shade out native plants.

Flower/Fruit: Flowers are small, white, and showy (about 0.5" in diameter) and have an unpleasant odor. They emerge in April before leaf-out. Fruit (0.5"- 1" wide) is tan to brown and resembles a small pear. Fruit is inedible to humans.

Similar Plants: Callery pear, especially in flower, can be confused with many other members of the rose family (Rosaceae) including serviceberries, plums/cherries, hawthorns, and apples (*Malus*).



Early flowering trees can be seen dominating forest edges.



Small white flowers are one of the first to bloom in spring.



Abundant fruits are small, tan to brown.

