

WEED of the MONTH

Callery Pear, *Pyrus calleryana*

ODNR Division of Forestry

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Callery Pear also known as ornamental or flowering pear is arguably the most popular urban tree in the Midwest. It is widely planted for its beautiful spring flowers, fast growth rate and tolerance to urban stresses. It can grow to 25-40 feet in height and 20 to 30 feet in width. The overall shape of the tree is often described as pyramidal and spreading. Leaves are alternate, simple, and shiny. Autumn leaves turn a striking orange and purplish red and persist into winter. Small ½ inch round fruits appear during late spring and summer.



WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

Original cultivars of callery pear were self sterile and very desirable urban trees. But cross pollination among many individuals of varied cultivars resulted in pollination, fruiting and spread from urban areas into the countryside. The progeny tend to be stout, thorny and multiple stemmed and are not as appealing or attractive as the original cultivars.

The European starling, a non-native invasive bird is associated with this tree. The starling can be a serious nuisance in urban areas. It congregates in pear trees, prefers the fruit and spreads the seeds along their migratory routes.



HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES

Pear trees can thrive in the smallest sidewalk cut out or in the most spacious of park settings. With that versatility, this tree represents a significant threat to early successional ecosystems. They tend to colonize waste areas and open fields.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Seedlings have an extensive tap root and may not be pulled. If cutting the tree down is not possible, pear trees can be girdled effectively. Stumps sprouts may be later treated with an appropriate systemic herbicide (e.g. glyphosate or triclopyr), or ground up.

USE PESTICIDES WISELY: ALWAYS READ THE ENTIRE PESTICIDE LABEL CAREFULLY, FOLLOW ALL MIXING AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND WEAR ALL RECOMMENDED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR AND CLOTHING. CONTACT YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PESTICIDE USE REQUIREMENTS, RESTRICTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS.