

# BRADFORD PEAR

# SOLUTIONS

Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford') is a spring-flowering tree that has been widely planted throughout the eastern U.S. in the last few decades. It is a popular tree that is frequently seen in nearly every city within its growing range. The species is a native of China, Taiwan, Japan, and Vietnam

Bradford pear was once considered one of the most beautiful trees to have in your yard. Every new development had sweeping rows of them along their main thoroughfares. But unbeknownst to many these would quickly become a nuisance pest to native ecosystems. Bred to be sterile, this was not the case, they often cross pollinate with other species creating a hybrid alien species that is highly prolific. This new alien species squashes out native vegetation and disrupts entire ecosystems

As of 2021 they will be illegal to sell in the state of Ohio. Butler SWCD urges landowners and homebuilders to stray from planting any pear species for fear that these events will continue to occur with future species of pear trees.

## IDENTIFICATION



Trees are often small trunked and develop a large rounded branch formation

Trees are often planted in groves to highlight their flowering nature



Leaves are bright green and waxy in color. As Summer continues on they will become more red colored

Bark is typical to the pear family. Large veins will open up as the tree ages



## PROBLEMS

Many people notice that as these trees age they become more fragile. About the only thing that can kill a Bradford Pear is a late season ice storm or a wind storm. They are highly resistant to common pear diseases. Despite this they often out-grow themselves and become too heavy to support their own weight, eventually cracking apart.

If you have a pear tree you think is sick the best solution is to cut it off about 4" from the ground. No only do they serve no purpose to native ecosystems, the blooms often smell like dead fish in the spring.

## SOLUTIONS

### Plant Native.

Native trees are the natural food and habitat source for many species of birds and small mammals

### Redbud

Redbuds have a medium growth rate, prefer alkaline soils, and a early spring bloomer.

### Serviceberry

Important key to thicket ecosystems, serviceberry delivers a similar white bud that is found on the Bradford pear.

### Silky Dogwood

This is a large shrub, adapted to wet conditions it is still highly adaptive to other conditions

## CONTROL

**Mechanical:** Removing a tree entirely is best for residential situations. In areas where a thicket has formed it is best to girdle a tree with an axe or a saw to permanently kill it. Again, if you think it is sick or damaged, get rid of it!

**Biological:** No biological controls are known at this time die to the trees hardy nature.



Find out more at [www.ButlerSWCD.org](http://www.ButlerSWCD.org)

