

AlterNATIVES to Callery Pear Trees!

Aka Bradford Pear

What is Callery Pear?

Callery Pear is also called Bradford Pear, after its first cultivar (or cultivated variety). All ornamental pear trees are considered callery pears; some cultivars include: Aristocrat, Cleveland Select, Autumn Blaze, and Capital.

Why Shouldn't I Plant It?

While pears have been widely planted as an attractive, fast growing, landscape tree, the creation of multiple cultivars has allowed the once sterile trees to start producing abundant fruit. This fruit is eaten by birds that carry the seeds across the landscape, allowing callery pears to invade natural areas. Now an aggressive invasive, callery pears form dense thickets, displace native plants, degrade wildlife habitat, and cause problems along roadsides. They can also pose a safety hazard as their poor structure causes the trees to easily split.



Why Should I Choose a Native Alternative?

Native plants are not only beautiful, but also benefit birds and other wildlife. Unlike non-native species, these plants support multiple pollinators and insects, providing food for Indiana birds. Seedlings of native plants also play nicely in neighboring natural areas.

For More Information

- Indiana Native Plant Society: www.indiananativeplants.org
- Indiana Invasive Species Council: www.indianainvasivespecies.org
- Local SWCDs: iaswcd.org/contact-your-local-swcd/
- Additional native alternatives include: Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*).

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Flowering Dogwood

(*Cornus florida*)

- Many cultivars available, largest/showiest of the dogwoods
- Year-round interest (spring flowers, fall foliage, and red berries in winter)
- Small tree, prefers partial shade



Redbud

(*Cercis canadensis*)

- Brilliant early blooms in pink-purple
- Small tree, does well even in urban areas, tolerates clay soil
- Good for full sun to part shade
- Unique heart-shaped leaves



Serviceberry

(*Amelanchier laevis*, *A. arborea*)

- Season long interest (early flowers, summer berries, fall foliage)
- Delicious berries!
- Good small street tree, tolerates air pollution
- Multiple species, but *A. laevis* and *A. arborea* are best suited for Indiana

