

The *Pyrus calleryana* is clustered within the Rosaceae plant family. More commonly, this elegant spring flowering tree is called the Flowering Pear or the Callery Pear. The second of the two names is most relevant because it is derived from the name of Joseph Maxime Marie Callery who lived from 1810 to 1862. As a missionary and botanical collector of Italian-French descent, he became an avid scholar of China and all things Chinese. He noted that a species of pear tree native to China (and also Vietnam) was unknown in Europe, so he sent specimens to Europe, an act which forever linked his name to this tree.

While quite beautiful during its spring show of clusters of small, five-petal white flowers, it is equally magnificent in its blaze of fall colors, before losing its leaves during the cooler months of the year. Between spring and fall, it displays dense foliage of a shiny bright green that make it an excellent screen for most of the year. One of the cultivars listed below, the Everscreen, retains its leaves year round in milder climates. Examples of cultivars of *Pyrus calleryana* include:

- Aristocrat
- Bradford
- Capital
- Chanticleer
- Cleveland Select
- Everscreen
- Fauer
- Manchurian
- Prairie Gem
- Redspire
- Whitehouse

Known for their erect growth habit, these cultivars range in height, canopy, overall size and shape, as well as, leaf coloration and leaf characteristics. These variations make it easy to find a cultivar suitable to a variety of landscape design needs.

Equally important, it is considered a nonallergenic. While the *Pyrus calleryana* cultivars are susceptible to sooty mold and white fly, they are resistant to fireblight, oak root fungus, and verticillium wilt. In areas prone to high winds, they are a less desirable plant because their weak crotches are prone to wind damage. Compared to other trees, it also has a relatively short life of less than 25 years.

Unlike other pear trees known for their fruit production, the *Pyrus Calleryana* produces hard, almost woody fruit that is less than one centimeter wide. The fruit is consumed by the local bird population, which readily distributes the fruits' undigested seeds. *Pyrus calleryana* is considered a relatively easy tree to grow and grows well in a wide range of soils, characteristics which when combined with the steady widespread seed distribution system provided by its feathered friends, could put the *Pyrus calleryana* at risk of becoming an invasive plant.

While not valued for its fruit production, the *Pyrus calleryana* is highly valued for its wood. It is considered to be among the finest-textured fruitwoods and is a prized wood for the construction of woodwind instruments and woodcuts. It is also valued as a veneer for fine furniture, as well as commonly serving as a rootstock for fruit-bearing trees.