

Invasive Species Alert

CALLERY PEAR

(PYRUS CALLERYANA)

ESTABLISHED IN MICHIGAN

IDENTIFICATION:

- Medium-sized, fast-growing tree.
- Bark is smooth, becoming scaly on older trees.
- Small white flowers with five petals, often with an unpleasant odor.
- Leaves are teardrop- to heart-shaped, shiny, dark green and leathery with a wavy edge; some trees have bright red fall foliage.
- Fruits are ½ inch, hard, and green to brown; long stems attach to a single point on a twig.
- Can develop sharp thorns near flowering stems.



HABITAT: Commonly planted as a street tree, but escapes into woodland edges, wetlands, fields and prairies.

NATIVE RANGE: Callery pear is native to China, Japan and other areas of southeast Asia.

U.S. DISTRIBUTION: Found escaped from cultivation throughout the eastern U.S., along roadsides and in uncultivated areas near plantings, but also escaping into woodlands, wetlands and open fields.

MICHIGAN DISTRIBUTION: Becoming established along roadsides and in fields throughout the Lower Peninsula.



LOCAL CONCERN: Outcompetes native plants creating thickets. Disrupts native food web and can interrupt regrowth of native trees. Its weak branching and ball-bearing-like fruit may cause hazards in urban areas.

HOW IT SPREADS: Callery pear can spread by seed and root suckers or spread by birds eating fruits.

REPORT THIS SPECIES: Visit [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone.

Photos courtesy of Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.

