

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

Best Bets: Plants
for Particular Uses
in the Mid-Atlantic

INVASIVE PLANT: Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)



Originally brought to the United States from Asia to combat disease affecting the common pear, this non-native tree, including the popular 'Bradford' cultivar, is now planted in high density in a variety of urban and suburban settings. It can spread aggressively outside cultivation. The National Park and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services consider it a plant invader of Mid-Atlantic natural areas. Wild forms develop traits of the original trees, including thorns.

Problems	Bradford Pear & Flowering Dogwood
Has escaped cultivation and spread to roadsides	
Forms dense, impenetrable thickets	
Found deep in forests	
Impedes forest succession in disturbed sites	
Some varieties can cross-pollinate with other pear species to produce fertile hybrids	
Fruits after only three years	
Copious seeds dispersed by birds	
Tolerates wide range of environmental conditions	
Narrow branch angle results in splitting after wind and ice storms	
Desired Characteristics	
Mid-size tree with pretty blossoms & good fall color	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (Downy Serviceberry)	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> (Eastern Redbud)	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> (Fringetree)	
<i>Cornus florida</i> (Flowering Dogwood)	
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> (Cockspur Hawthorn)	
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i> (Silverbell)	
<i>Malus coronaria</i> (Sweet Crabapple)	
<i>Prunus americana</i> (American Wild Plum)	
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington, VA