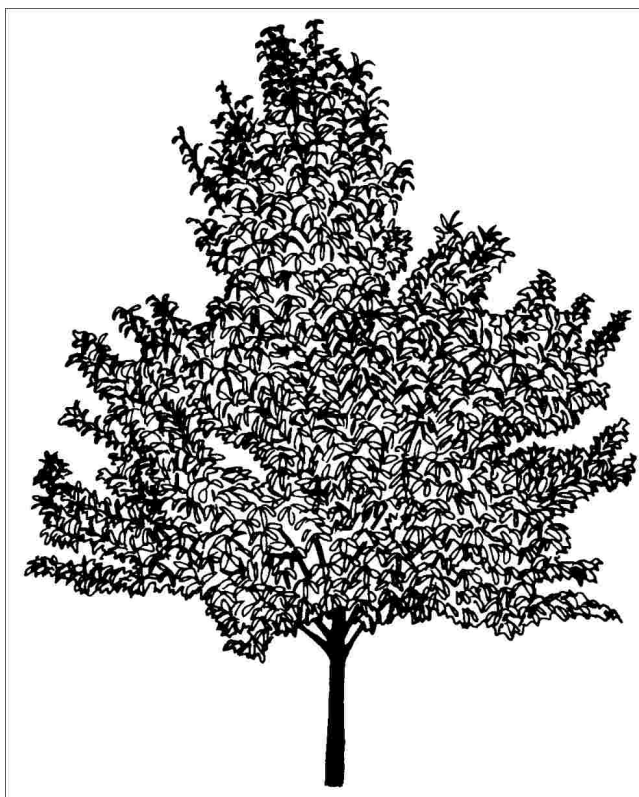


## *Pyrus calleryana* 'Redspire': 'Redspire' Callery Pear<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

'Redspire' Callery Pear quickly grows 35 to 45 feet high and 20 feet wide, with upright-spreading, thornless branches. The narrow crown enable this tree to be used in tight overhead spaces. The silhouette appears as a fat column growing wider than 'Whitehouse' and 'Capital' but narrower than 'Bradford' and 'Aristocrat'. In spring before the new leaves unfold, the tree puts on a nice display of pure white flowers larger than 'Bradford' or 'Aristocrat'. Flowering may be subdued in USDA hardiness zone 8b and it occurs at about the same time as 'Bradford' Callery Pear. The leaves emerge as red/purple, then become 1.5 to 3 inches long, glossy green with wavy margins and a red blush. They turn yellow to orange in fall in the south putting on an attractive display before dropping. Fall color may be subdued in the north. The small, pea-sized, red/brown fruits which form are quite attractive to birds and other wildlife, and mummify on the tree persisting for several months to a year. Planting two or more cultivars of Callery Pear together could increase fruit set.



**Figure 1.** Young *Pyrus calleryana* 'Redspire': 'Redspire' Callery Pear

### General Information

1. This document is ENH-696, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.

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**Scientific name:** *Pyrus calleryana*

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Pronunciation:** PIE-rus kal-ler-ee-AY-nuh

**Crown shape:** pyramidal

**Common name(s):** 'Redspire' Callery Pear

**Crown density:** moderate

**Family:** *Rosaceae*

**Growth rate:** fast

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5A through 9A (Fig. 2)

**Texture:** medium

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Foliage**

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Uses:** shade; container or planter; street without sidewalk; screen; specimen; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; urban tolerant; highway median

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate, sinuate/undulate, crenate

**Leaf shape:** ovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate, reticulate

**Availability:** not native to North America

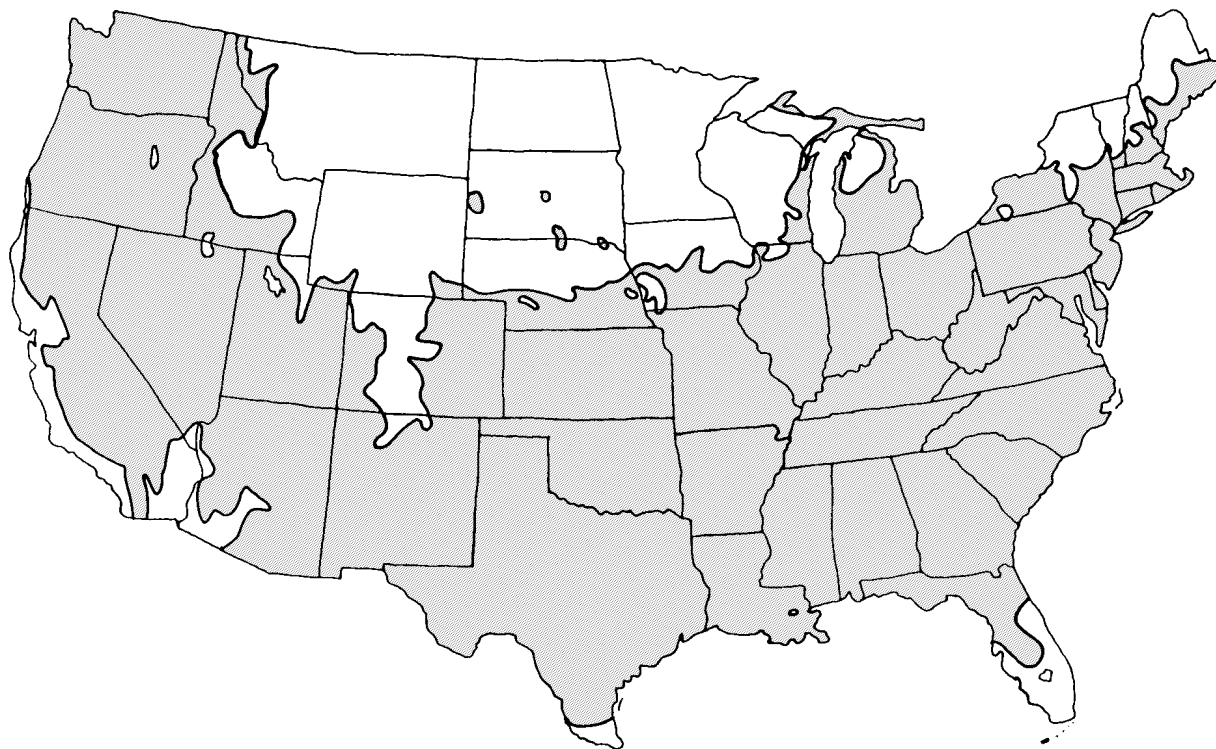


Figure 2. Range

**Description**

**Height:** 35 to 45 feet

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Spread:** 20 to 30 feet

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches, 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow, orange

**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white/cream/gray

**Flower characteristics:** very showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** tan, brown

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** thick

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

### Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** tolerant

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant

**Pest resistance:** sensitive to pests/diseases

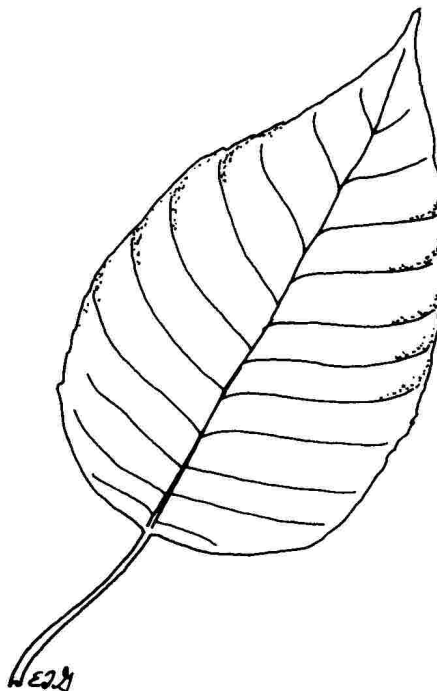


Figure 3. Foliage

## Use and Management

Planted commonly as a street tree or in parking lot islands, it is also quite suited for downtown tree pits due to its urban tolerance. Like 'Bradford' pear, it is able to tolerate small soil spaces. It looks great located along a street on 20 to 25-foot-centers and creates a 'corridor' for traffic flow.

Fire blight susceptibility was light to moderate in tests conducted at Auburn University. Others report resistance to fireblight. It has a fruit set which could create a nuisance for some. Pruning the trees early in their life to space lateral branches along a central trunk should help in developing a strong, well-structured tree. Only buy trees with well-spaced branches. This cultivar has a better form than 'Bradford' and is easier to train to a strong structure.

Callery Pear trees are shallow-rooted and will tolerate most soil types including alkaline and clay, are pest- and pollution-resistant, and tolerate drought

and wet soil well. It is a very adaptable tree suited for downtown and other restricted soil spaces.

Propagation is by cuttings.

### **Pests**

Aphids cause distorted growth and deposits of honeydew.

Scales occasionally affect pears.

Several borers may attack pear. Keep trees healthy to prevent attacks.

### **Diseases**

In tests conducted in Kentucky and Alabama, 'Redspire' Callery Pear was light to moderately susceptible to fire blight. Tips of infected branches appear scorched and burnt. The leaves droop, turn brown, but remain hanging on the tree. The bacteria wash down the branch and form cankers. Bark inside the canker often shreds and peels. When a canker girdles a branch, that branch dies. Prune out infected branches well below the infected area.