



Pyrus calleryana 'Redspire' 'Redspire' Callery Pear¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

'Redspire' Callery Pear quickly grows 35 to 45 feet high and 20 feet wide, with upright-spreading, thornless branches (Fig. 1). 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Pyrus calleryana* 'Redspire'

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

Common name(s): 'Redspire' Callery Pear

Family: *Rosaceae*

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

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot

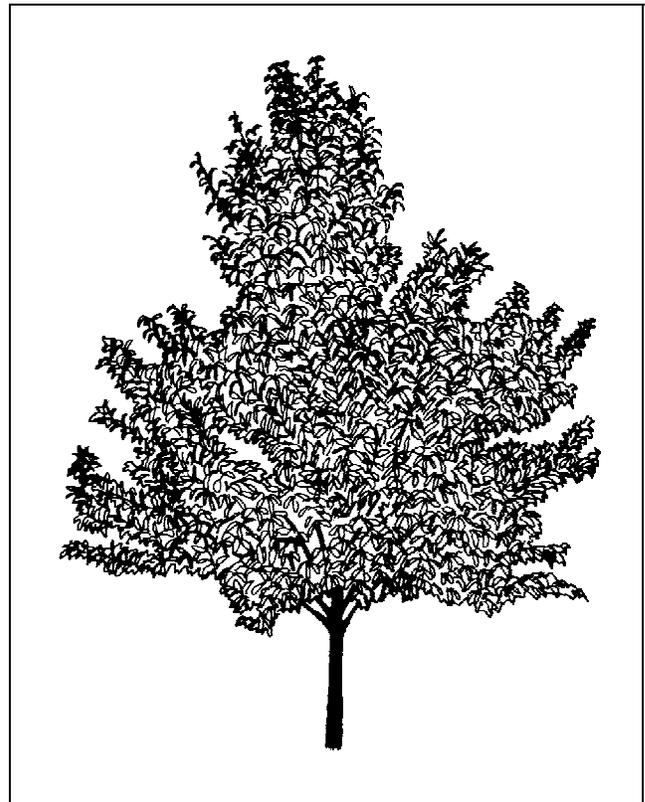


Figure 1. Young 'Redspire' Callery Pear.

islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; shade tree; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage,

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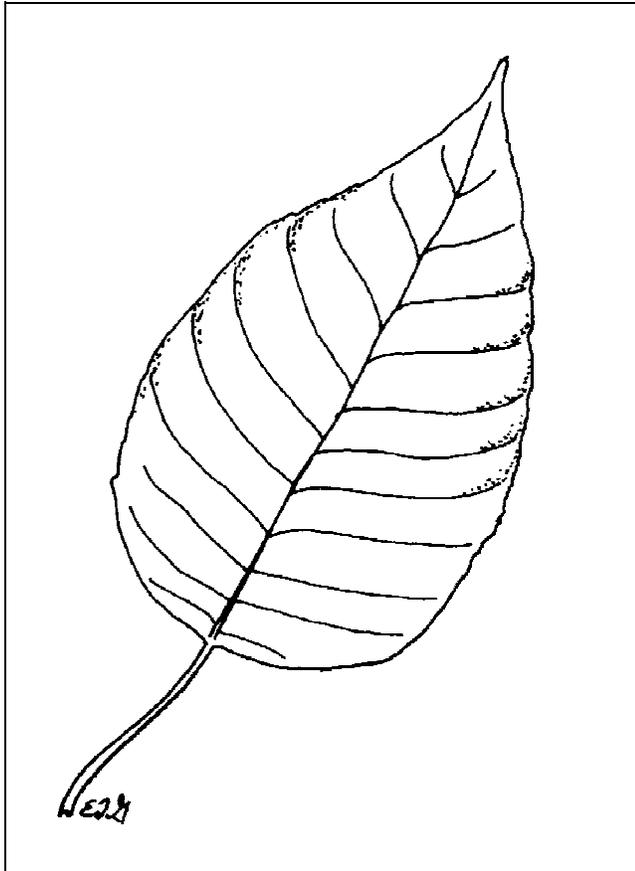


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Redspire' Callery Pear.

trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk;
no thorns

Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

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

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Ozone sensitivity: tolerant

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

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.