

LEAST WANTED!

P L A N T 2 0 0 9

CALLERY PEAR *Pyrus calleryana*



RALPH BERGMANN, BERNHEIM



DAVID J. MOORHEAD, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, BUGWOOD.ORG

An ornamental tree that can grow to 40 feet. Native to Korea and Japan, cultivars of this species are rapidly invading natural areas throughout Kentucky. They are frequently observed along roadsides and open areas as escapes from ornamental plantings. The tree's shape is rounded or

"tear-drop", but it can spread out with age. The shiny leaves are alternate, 2 to 3 inches long, with slightly-toothed margins. The showy, white, malodorous flowers appear early in the spring before the leaves emerge. The 'Bradford' variety, which produced sterile fruits before

other cultivars were introduced, has been widely planted since the 1900's. The introduction of new cultivars has enabled the production of fertile crosses resulting in viable seeds. Birds relish the fruits, helping to disperse seeds and hasten encroachment.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES



DON BARDELS ARCHIVES, BUGWOOD.ORG



DAN TENAGLIA, MISSOURIPLANTS.COM



DR. HAROLD PELLET, LANDSCAPE PLANT DEVELOPMENT CENTER

FRINGETREE

Chionanthus virginicus

A small native deciduous tree reaching about 25 feet tall. When grown in an open yard it tends to have a rounded crown. During late April to early May the tree is covered with white flowers that have long strap-shaped petals, hence the name fringetree. In the fall, the leaf color is yellow. The tree is relatively free of pests. Because it is somewhat slow growing, starting with a larger specimen will improve results.

RUSTY BLACKHAW

Viburnum rufidulum

A shrub or small tree commonly found in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Preferring areas with full sun to partial shade, it grows to an average height of 10 to 15 feet, but can reach 25 feet. It has high drought tolerance, growing well in a variety of well-drained soils. In May, rusty blackhaw is adorned with showy clusters of white, creamy flowers, attracting many pollinators. In the fall, the opposite, glossy leaves turn a purplish-red and the ripe fruits are relished by songbirds. The graceful, vase-shaped branching and beautiful blocky bark make it a lovely addition to the yard year 'round.

WILD PLUM

Prunus americana

A small (generally 25 feet or less) tree that often produces multiple trunks. The flowers are produced in early spring and are generally white, making showy sprays that contrast with the dark, reddish-brown to almost black bark. The edible fruits (1 to 1.5 inches diameter) are reddish to yellow in color. Fall leaf color is yellow to reddish. Spring tent caterpillars may defoliate these sometimes when their numbers are high.

To heighten awareness of invasive plants that threaten Kentucky's native biodiversity, a Least Wanted plant will be featured in the Spring of each year with suggested alternatives.



Kentucky's Least Wanted Program is sponsored by:



Promoting alternatives to invasive landscape plants