

Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection will be the Bradford Pear. It is one of the finest street and lawn trees, and general all around purpose tree. Michael Dirr, author of "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants," where I am drawing my material from, states that he feels that the Bradford Pear is "now approaching epidemic proportions and will no doubt be over planted the way Green Ash, Silver Maple, and Siberian Elm are/were." I don't foresee the golf courses in over planting this species for it would be used differently than the fore mentioned trees are used.

Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford' (pi-rus kal-er-e-a-na) - Bradford Callery Pear

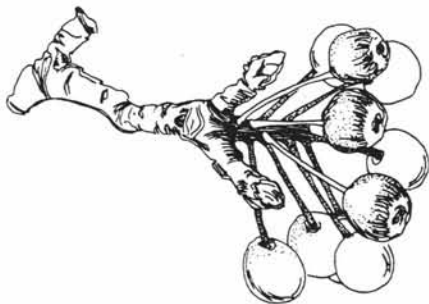
Leaves: Alternate, simple, broad-ovate to ovate, 1½ to 3" long, about as wide, rounded or broad-cuneate at base, usually quite glabrous, leathery lustrous dark green.



Buds: Large terminal and laterals of approximately same size, ovoid, elongated ½" long intensely woolly, dirty gray to gray brown.



Stem: Stout, brownish sometimes exhibiting ridges running from base of leaf scar, generally white woolly pubescent, especially below terminal gradually changing to smooth, glossy brown at maturity.



Size: Usually 30 to 50' in height and with a spread of 20 to 35'.

Flowers: A beautiful flowering tree in early to mid May in the Chicago area. Flowers are ½" across and has been described as a "white cloud".

Culture: Easy to transplant if moved in late winter or early spring; do not move trees if in leaf, very adaptable to many different soils, tolerates dryness, pollution, and should be planted in full sun. Prune in winter or early spring. It is resistant to fireblight and basically free of pests. One drawback being that it tends to develop tight crotches and splitting may occur.

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