

# ORNAMENTAL PEARS

by Brian K. Finger

The Bradford Pear, *Pyrus calleryana* cv. "Bradford" has become one of the most widely planted ornamental trees in the Mid-Atlantic states. Many states list it as one of their "Ten Most Recommended Trees".

The Bradford Pear is a very vigorous grower and because of this can outgrow its designated area. Sometimes this growth becomes a maintenance problem, especially where there are still electric and telephone lines. Another problem is the susceptibility to ice breakage. Because of the dense branching habit, ice can cause breakage of limbs and in many cases an entire side of the tree may be lost.

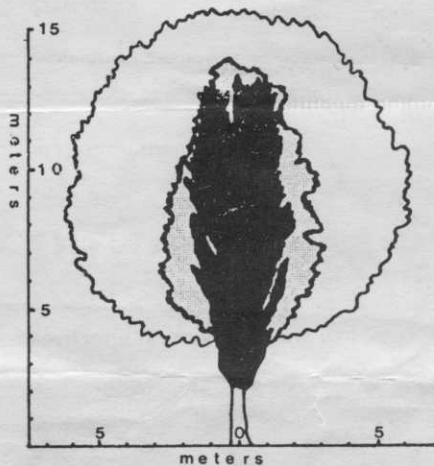


Fig. 1. Silhouette drawings taken from photographs of 'Capital' (center-black) 'Whitehouse' (intermediate-speckled) and 'Bradford' (outside-plain).

There was definitely a need for a less vigorous grower and a tree with better branching (right angles and less dense) with a narrow crown. The following are some varieties for you to consider:

**ARISTOCRAT** — This introduction has excellent dark green waxy foliage that turns to brilliant red in the fall. A very heavy spring bloomer. It is a more wide open tree than the Bradford due to wider crotch angle branches.

**REDSPIRE** — Introduced by Princeton Nurseries in New Jersey. This selection has a narrow oval crown with larger flowers and clusters than the Bradford. The glossy green foliage turns to purple/crimson in the fall. Tree will obtain a height of 30' to 35'.

**WHITEHOUSE** — This pear was developed by the U.S. National Arboretum. It is a heavy bloomer with a narrow pyramidal form. It does turn color earlier in the fall than other varieties. The leaves turn dark red/purple changing to red as the season advances.

**CAPITAL** — This is a columnar form ornamental pear. This selection offers potential as a long lived replacement for the Lombardy Poplar. It could be used as a windbreak or screen planting. In addition to its distinct shape, it has good spring flowering, excellent summer foliage, and bright purple/red fall coloring.

Most all of the improved pear varieties are budded or grafted on *Pyrus calleryana* (common pear) understock. This is because of the greater adaptability of plants on this understock to a wide range of soil conditions.

Commercial pear plantings have been repeatedly damaged by severe outbreaks of fireblight. All of the above introductions show a high degree of resistance to fireblight.

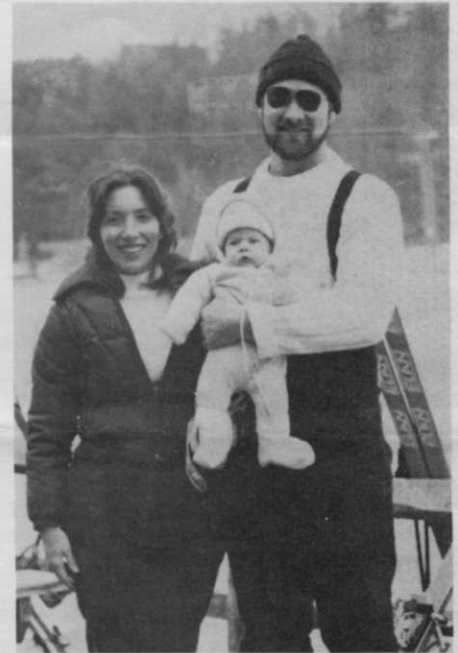
Although the Bradford Pear is the most widely known, these new varieties deserve some consideration.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, having just received notice that he passed the tests on the fifth of August. Congratulations Steve!

The Cohoon family live in a newly completed home on ten acres in Loudoun County. Steve and his wife Michele have a eight month old son Daniel Ray. The couple have been married for five (happy) years according to Steve. We certainly wish them both many more happy years together. We all know that being a Superintendent's wife isn't always easy. Hang in there Michele!



Steve Cohoon and family

Teaching the Turf Care course at Northern Va. Community College has been a rewarding and interesting experience for Steve. He has been the President of the Greater Washington Superintendents Association and is currently on the board of our association, where he serves as education chairman. Steve has also been President of the alumni association of the Institute of Applied Agriculture of the U. of Maryland. He is one of that special kind of person who are ready to serve their profession in any they can. I know we all appreciate his efforts. Thanks Steve, for your efforts on our behalf, and for hosting a meeting at this most difficult time of our growing season.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB:** From the capital beltway (95) take Indian Head Highway (Exit 3) south approximately five miles to Fort Washington Road, turn right and go approximately 3 miles to St. Andrews Drive (just past the elementary school). Turn right on St. Andrews Drive to the club entrance. Members coming from Baltimore should stay on 95, the east side of the Washington Beltway.

## 1988-1989 MAAGCS SCHEDULE

| Date            | Location/Host   | Speaker/Topic  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| September 13-15 | VPI Field Days<br>Drs. Schmidt, Hall & Chalmers                     | Tournament Research,<br>Category 2 Recertification     |
| September 14    | Tantallon Country Club<br>Steven Cohoon, CGCS<br>*WEDNESDAY MEETING | Mr. Kenneth Wagner<br>Pond Water Management            |
| October 11      | Rehobeth Country Club<br>Thomas List, CGCS                          | John Segui, GCSAA<br>President, Certification          |
| October 21      | Columbia Country Club<br>Kenneth Ingram, CGCS                       | 60th Anniversary, MAAGCS<br>Ladies Night, Dinner-Dance |
| November 8      | Bethesda Country Club<br>Thomas Regan, CGCS                         | Stanley Zontec, USGA<br>Winter Play                    |
| December 13     | Turf Valley Country Club<br>William Blackert                        | Election Meeting                                       |
| January 9-11    | Maryland Turfgrass Expo 88  | Conference & Trade Show                                |
| January 17-19   | Virginia Turfgrass Conference                                       | Conference & Trade Show                                |