Plant This, Not That!
Native Missouri Trees to Plant Instead of Non-Native, Invasive Callery/Bradford Pear

Callery pear, and cultivars of this non-native species, such as Bradford pears, are weak-wooded and highly invasive, spreading quickly and growing fast. They displace native shrubs and trees and decrease overall native biodiversity.

So “Plant This, Not That!” Choose native shrubs and trees, and support native biodiversity.
Serviceberry

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) is a tall shrub or small tree bearing clusters of fragrant white flowers in April. Flowers give rise to very flavorful, red to purple-black, berrylike fruits relished by both songbirds and people. This lovely tree has colorful fall foliage in a blend of orange, gold, red and green.

Serviceberry photos by Flickr users Dan Mullen and RJ. Bradford pear photos by Martin LaBar and Amanda Nichols.

The Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force is a resource of:
American hornbeam or musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) is a small to medium multi-stemmed tree forming wide, spreading rounded tops. Simple toothed leaves are dark green and have variable yellow, orange, red or reddish purple fall color. Thin, bluish-gray bark appears to “ripple” as the tree matures.

Hornbeam photos by Flickr users Wendy Cutler and Paco Garin. Bradford Pear photos by wplynn and Roger Smith.
Black Gum

Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) is a beautiful and underused native tree. Tidy shape. Glossy, dark green leaves turn yellow, orange, and scarlet red in fall. Bark is dark gray to almost black, alligator-like patterns when old. Fruit the size of navy beans ripen to a dark blue in fall and feed many birds. Host for the black and white Hebrew moth.

Serviceberry photos by Flickr users Dan Mullen and RJ. Bradford pear photos by Martin LaBar and Amanda Nichols.
Chokecherry

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) is a small, suckering tree or large shrub with attractive white flowers on 3-6” long clusters in spring. Fruit is red, ripening to purple in fall. Grow as a screen or as an understory planting as it has unusual shade tolerance for a cherry.

Chokecherry photos from Grow Native! and Flickr user Frank D. Lospalluto. Bradford Pear photo from MDC.
**Wild Plum**

Wild plum (*Prunus americana*) can be grown as a single trunk tree or multi-stemmed shrub. The pure white, fragrant flowers are among the first to open in spring. Heavier flowering in sun. Yellow to red, round, edible fruits, 1” in diameter. Host to red-spotted purple butterfly and many moths.

Wild plum photos by Becky Erickson. Bradford Pear photo from MDC.
Eastern Redbud

Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) bears prolific, edible, pink flowers in early spring. Red-purple, pea-shaped seed pods follow the flowers. Heart-shaped leaves turn yellow in fall.

Eastern redbud photos from Grow Native! and Flickr user Matthew Beziat. Bradford pear photos by Martin LaBar and Amanda Nichols.

The Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force is a resource of:
Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a small, low-branched tree with spreading horizontal branches. Distinctive white flowers, 3” in diameter, bloom mid-April to mid-May. Clusters of glossy red fruit in fall persist into winter and are relished by birds. Consistent deep red fall leaf color.

Dogwood photos by Steve Harwood and Plant Image Library. Bradford pear photo courtesy MDC.
Ironwood

Ironwood or Eastern hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), is a tough understory tree with beautiful birch-like leaves, grayish-brown flaky bark, fine-textured drooping branches, and attractive hop-like fruits. Not only ornamental but resistant to many disease and insect problems.

Ironwood photos from Flickr user Katja Schulz and Missouri Botanical Garden. Bradford pear photos from John Nekola and Flickr user wplynn.

The Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force is a resource of:
Black haw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*) have flat heads of white flowers in the spring. Birds eat the purple-black fruit in the fall. The edible fruit tastes like raisins. Small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Beautiful red color in fall.

Viburnum photos by Fritz Flohr Reynolds and Suzanne Cadwell. Bradford Pear photos by Bruce Henry and MDC.
Yellowwood

Yellowwood (Cladrastis kentukea) is a medium-sized tree, good for small areas, rich pea-green compound leaves with soft golden yellow fall color. Breathtaking, fragrant, creamy-white flowers occur in May on pendulous 8-14” long panicles. Bark is very smooth and gray.

Yellowwood photos from Flickr user Tom Gill and Grow Native! Bradford pear photos from John Nekola and MDC.

The Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force is a resource of: