



NEWS RELEASE

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CHARLOTTESVILLE CALLERY PEAR EXCHANGE SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Remove and replace your Callery pears – Pre-registration required

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) is rolling out a new exchange program to help slow the spread of Callery pears from the urban landscape into our natural areas. DOF's new Callery Pear Exchange program incentivizes the removal of up to three (3) Callery pear trees from your property to receive an equal number of native, young, healthy – and free – replacement trees.

A one-day exchange event will be held on Saturday, April 20 at DOF Headquarters in Charlottesville. Open to Virginia residents, a native replacement tree will be provided for every Callery pear removed (one-for-one replacement, remove one, get one). Callery pear trees must be removed from your own property only and property owners are responsible for tree removal and any related costs. Replacement trees are limited to three per person. The exchange program is supported by federal State Forest Action Plan funding.

Pre-registration is required to pick up replacement trees on April 20. Details are available on DOF's website: <https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/forest-health/financial-assistance-program/callery-pear-exchange-program/>.



“Callery pear trees are currently in bloom and can be seen across Virginia, so now is the perfect time to survey your property,” said Forest Health Program Manager Lori Chamberlin. “If you find Callery pear, consider participating in DOF’s new Callery Pear Exchange program to replace it with a free native tree. Doing so will help reduce the spread of invasives and help diversify Virginia’s urban landscape.”

Introduced as an ornamental landscape tree, the Callery pear and its cultivars took off in popularity due to their showy spring flowers. Not native to the U.S., these are now considered one of the worst invasive plant species in the entire Southeast. Once considered the “perfect neighborhood tree” and widely planted for decades, these trees outcompete native trees, threaten ecosystems and are prone to snapping during storms, which endangers homes, cars and property.

The rules:

- **Pre-registration is required to receive replacement trees.**
- Open to Virginia residents

- 1 native tree will be provided for every Callery pear removed (remove one, get one)
- Limit: 3 trees per person
- Callery pear trees must be removed from **your own property only**
- Replacement trees available in two-gallon pots
- Property owners responsible for tree removal and any related costs
- Quantities are limited – Register today!

After you register:

- *Properly remove and treat your Callery pear tree(s)
- Take a photo
- Ensure the tree is identifiable in your photos (i.e., in bloom, flowers or close-up shot of buds, leaves or fruit)
- You bring the photo proof, we bring the tree! Bring your photo of the removed Callery pear tree (on your phone is fine) to pick up your replacement tree on pickup day.

*(*For safe and most effective results, [DOF recommends working with an ISA-certified arborist](#). Treating stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth is strongly recommended.)*

***Event details (Pre-registration is required):**

Callery Pear Exchange Event
 Saturday, April 20, 2024
 9 – 11 a.m.
 Virginia Department of Forestry Headquarters
 900 Natural Resources Drive
 Charlottesville VA 22903
 *Rain or shine

How to identify a Callery pear:

- 40 feet tall or less, 12 inches in diameter or less
- Prefers full sun, found along roadways, fields and forest edges
- Grey/brown bark becomes scaly with age
- Early spring: five-petaled white flowers appear in bundles, known for pungent odor
- Thick, waxy leaves, arranged alternately, teardrop shaped, finely toothed

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About the Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$23 billion annually. Headquartered in Charlottesville, the agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it's been doing now for more than 100 years. DOF is an equal opportunity provider.