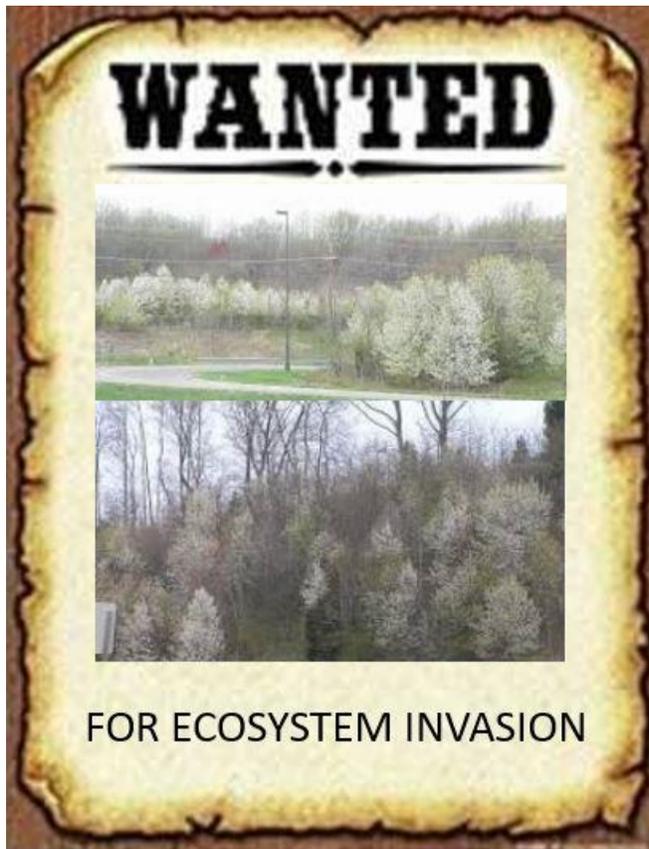


Wanted - Invasive Species of Concern! *Callery/Bradford Pear Trees*



The awe of spring has sprung. We see signs of color, fragrant smells, and the Earth comes alive again after a winter season. Beauty can be deceiving however. Those lovely white tree blooms that we observe in early spring on the tree horizon are really invasive and problematic. They are listed as a Maryland invasive species of concern. (See reference at the end of bulletin.)

You may be thinking, how can this be problematic when we are told that we need more trees and enhance our environment and control stormwater? This is where planting native is really important. Most problematic species start innocuously enough as ornamental plants. Exotic (brought from other countries), rather than native to our individual ecosystems, species are planted to adorn our landscape. It

doesn't take long, however, for them to be transported by wildlife or wind to other fertile places. These species have little or no natural predators, and they out compete native trees which are so critical to our native ecosystems. Exotic species can ultimately disrupt ecosystems such as water flow and nutrient cycling. They can also reduce food for wildlife.

Steps are being taken to eradicate the pear trees. For example, the MD State Highway Administration will cut them down and replace them with native shrubs and plants. An example of this proactive approach here on Center will happen in a Building 23 reforestation area clean up. The lovely native trees that were planted in 2007 and are now being outcompeted and overtaken by the pears. We will be removing the unwanted guests to give our beneficial native trees room to grow.



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This is news to me, what can I do:

Pick the proper tree. If you're considering an addition to your personal landscape, plant a native tree species that will fit and thrive in the places where they are planted. For a list of trees native to Maryland, see links referenced at the end of this bulletin. Eastern Red Bud, Serviceberry, American Fringe Tree, and Flowering Dogwood are just a few of the great native choices that can be used as an alternative to the pesky Bradford Pear.

Manage your lands wisely. Already have a beautiful Bradford Pear on your property? Should you cut it down and replace with a native or keep the mature tree and let it run its course? Ultimately, you must decide, but we'd be happy to lend you a saw.

http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/species/terrestrial_plants/callery_pear.html.

http://www.plantnative.org/how_intro.htm

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/>

<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/trees.html#native>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/pdf/chesapeakenatives.pdf>

<https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OC/QandA.pdf>