

## **Cleveland Select" pear trees**

(*Pyrus calleryana* "Cleveland Select") belong to the Callery pear family, noted for their early spring bloom and glossy green leaves. This particular variety grows 25 to 35 feet tall and 15 feet wide in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 5 through 9. It has some advantages over the related "Bradford" pear (*Pyrus calleryana* "Bradford"), which grows in the same USDA zones.

"Cleveland Select" has an attractive, narrow, pyramidal shade, making it a better fit for narrower spaces than the wider "Bradford" pear. It can tolerate heat and pollution, which makes it suited in the yards and along the streets of urban areas. Although susceptible to breakage from ice, wind and rain, its branches and form make it stronger than its "Bradford" cousin. It flowers densely in spring with white blooms and its leaves turn a striking red-orange color in fall. According to University of Connecticut, it is considered the finest selection for contemporary use.

### **Site Adaptation**

While the "Cleveland Select" pear tree prefers rich, well-draining loam, it also grows in heavy clay and poor soils, which are usually inhospitable for deciduous trees. It is not so tolerant of shade, and requires full sun to thrive. Once established after the first growing season, it tolerates drought and needs little attention. Some pruning may become necessary in late winter or early spring if the tree sustains damage from winter storms.

### **Diseases and Pests**

Few pests and diseases bother "Cleveland Select" pear trees. Other Callery pears have leaf spot problems, and can succumb to the deadly fire blight disease. "Cleveland Select" shows resistance to fire blight, in cooler climates as well as hotter, more humid climates.

### **Spread**

When planted near other varieties of Callery pear, this pear can cross-pollinate, producing fruit. Birds carry and spread the seeds from the fruit, dropping them to take root in places where they are not welcome. These new hybridized seedlings grow differently from the

parents, creating dense and thorny thickets and producing an abundance of fruit. Because they are so adaptable, they can grow almost anywhere. When planting this tree, take care that no other cultivars grow nearby to avoid this problem.