

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Grand Challenges

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### Grand Challenge: Water, Community Vitality, Health

**Title:** Pearing Down: Managing Callery Pears in NE Kansas

#### Why is this issue important?

The callery pear (a.k.a. Bradford, Aristocrat, Chanticleer pear) was labelled as THE ornamental tree for a variety of locations. This species is tolerant to many environmental conditions, flowers well, and is attractive to birds, leading to this plant being overplanted. As nurserymen bred other varieties, the cultivars started crossing and birds distributed seeds into nearby rangelands and forests. Today, the callery pear easily outcompetes native species, leading to the US Department of Agriculture to list it as an invasive species. In 2027, Kansas will impose a quarantine of callery pears, meaning the species cannot be moved into, out of, or be sold by nurseries in Kansas.

#### How did Extension address this issue?

Knowing that the quarantine was coming into effect and questions had been raised, the Horticulture and Agriculture and Natural Resources Agents worked together to develop a program to educate the community about this issue and raise awareness on this invasive species. With the help of the Forest Health Coordinator from the Kansas Forest Service and the Weeds and Seed Specialist from Kansas Department of Agriculture, the agents were able to educate the public on proper identification of callery pear, replacements after removal, methods of removal, and the ins and outs of the quarantine itself.



#### What was the impact?

In a survey following the program, all participants were able to identify callery pear trees both in and outside of cultivation, were more knowledgeable of the history of the species, could identify trees that could serve as replacements for callery pear, understood that a variety of control measures of this invasive, and were more knowledgeable of the upcoming callery pear quarantine and the rationale behind it.

This program also allowed the Horticulture Agent to start building a successful relationship with several representatives from the Kansas Forest Service. As a part of their callery pear mitigation efforts, KFS holds "buybacks" on a regular basis. To take part, community members remove a callery pear and are given a native tree to plant in its place. The hope is to continue hosting these buybacks in Shawnee County, thanks in part to a continuing relationship with KFS.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
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