



Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) Removal Program 2025



PURPOSE

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Callery Pear Removal Program is an incentive program intended to defray landowner costs for removal of mature, standalone, landscape callery pear trees. The goal of this program is to help landowners practice better environmental stewardship by providing financial assistance for the removal of invasive pear trees that would not otherwise be removed without financial assistance.

COST-SHARE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All lands within Hamilton County, except land owned by employees or supervisors of the District, are eligible for the removal program. Private land is prioritized for this program. Eligible invasive species include all cultivars of *Pyrus calleryana*. Common names include, but are not limited to: Bradford, Aristocrat, Cleveland Select, Chanticleer. Landowner is responsible for evaluating any possible easements and/or gaining proper permissions for removal of any street trees.

The award is \$400 per property/landowner and is issued as a rebate check after approved project completion.

INELIGIBLE PRACTICES

The following are not eligible for this cost-sharing program:

- Practices required as a result of a court order;
- Practices required for compliance with local building permits;
- Practices associated with mitigation;
- Stands of pear trees in woodlands or naturalized areas; trees that have escaped cultivation. These areas qualify for our invasive species cost share program. See photo on page 2.
- Callery pear trees that are small enough to be removed by the landowner or a small crew (20 inch circumference or less at 4 feet off the ground) do not qualify. Small trees are good candidates for our native for invasive swap program which offers free native replacements for removed invasive species.

PARTNER CONTRACTOR DISCOUNTS

Several local tree companies have partnered with the SWCD to offer discounted rates to landowners removing invasive species. See a full list of companies offering callery pear removal discounts at www.hamiltonswcd.org/landscapepeargrants.

COST-SHARE APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Applications are reviewed and approved on a rolling basis until all funding has been utilized. Interested parties should submit the online application which includes a photo of the tree(s), circumference

measurements of the tree(s), and at least one quote from a tree removal company. It is up to the landowner to properly vet all contractors including assuring current insurance coverage.

Applicants will receive acceptance or denial of their application within 3 weeks of application. Once approved, the landowner has two months to submit the completion form showing a photograph of the removed tree(s) and an invoice/receipt showing full payment to the contractor. **Any costs incurred prior to approval of the grant are not eligible for reimbursement.**

PAYMENT PROCESS

Reimbursements will be distributed via check after the SWCD board's next board meeting (3rd Thursday of each month).

PROJECT TIMELINES

Participants will have two months from the application approval date to complete their project and submit the required documentation. **The grant will be forfeited if the project is not completed in the two-month timeframe.** The cost share committee and SWCD reserve the right to adjust policies, cost share rates, deadlines, and program structure at any time.

