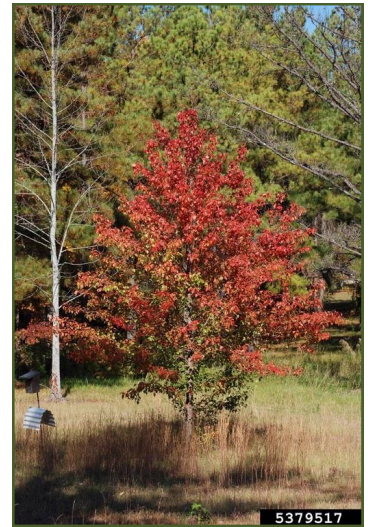


Callery Pear—*Pyrus calleryana*

Callery pear is a widely used ornamental tree that has started to invade natural areas throughout Illinois. It is native to Asia and was introduced multiple times into the United States. Mature trees can get up to 40 feet tall, but are often much shorter. This deciduous tree often turns a deep red color in the fall. Leaves are alternate and broadly ovate with rounded teeth along the margins. Flowers are white with five petals and bloom before the leaves erupt on the plant. This is often one of the first trees to bloom in the spring. Fruit are small, rough, and tan in color and occur in loose clusters. Escaped individuals revert back to the 'wild type' and often look very different than the planted cultivars. Escaped plants can be multi-stemmed and often have sharp thorns.



Fall color



Leaf shape and fall color



Thorns



Fruit cluster



Roadside infestation in the spring. Note that the trees are flowering before the leaves erupt.

Giant Hogweed—*Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Giant hogweed is a dangerous plant and is designated as a federal noxious weed due to its toxic sap that causes skin sensitivity to UV radiation and leads to blistering and severe burns. It is native to Europe and Asia and was introduced around 1917 for use as an ornamental plant. It is also used as a spice in middle Eastern cooking. Hogweed is a towering herbaceous biennial plant growing 15-20 ft. in height with interesting foliage and massive flower heads. The large stem is hollow, about 2 in. across and usually marked with purple blotches. The leaves are deeply lobed, sharply pointed, and up to 5 ft. across. Flowering occurs in late spring to early summer. The white flowers are arranged in large umbrella-shaped heads that can be up to 2½ ft. in diameter.



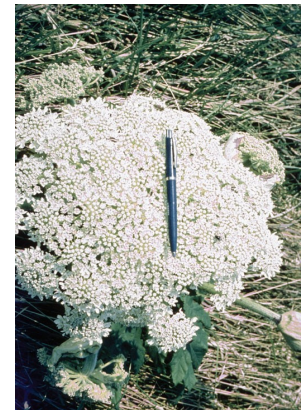
Large, hollow stem



8-15 feet tall flowering stems



Large, deeply lobed leaves



Flower cluster up to 2.5 feet wide



Purple blotches on stem

Caution—Do not handle this plant with bare hands and skin. The sap is photo-reactive and may cause severe blistering.