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MDC Encourages Public NOT to Plant Invasive Bradford Pear Trees

APRIL 05TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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MDC encourages public not to plant invasive Bradford pear trees

The invasive Bradford pear tree can cause problems for Missouri native plants and animals.

Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages homeowners and landscapers to avoid planting Callery pear trees this spring.

Better known as Bradford pears, the Callery pear tree is an invasive species known to multiply quickly and crowd out Missouri native plants. While it's been a popular landscaping tree for decades, cultivated forms have spread aggressively throughout the state.

"Different varieties of Bradford pear trees were planted close to each other, which allowed them to cross pollinate and take over natural areas," said Forestry Field Program Supervisor Russell Hinnah. "But they're also a poor landscaping choice because they don't do well in storms, often losing limbs or splitting apart."

Stopping the spread means selecting alternate trees for yards and forested property.

"The best plan is to select a native species to Missouri, and there are several great options," said Hinnah. "Serviceberry trees produce similar showy white blooms in the

spring and have small red fruits that attract wildlife.”

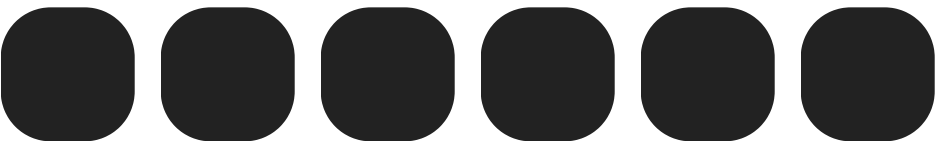
Eastern redbuds and Missouri’s state tree, the flowering dogwood, are also good alternatives. The redbud tree grows quickly with eye-catching lavender flowers in the spring. Dogwoods do best in shady areas but can be somewhat difficult to grow.

Learn more about stopping the spread of the Callery pear at the Callery Pear Field Event Friday, April 13, in Columbia.

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MO Deer Hunters Share More Than 289,000 lbs of Venison

MARCH 26TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

MO Deer Hunters Share More Than 289,000 lbs of Venison

MDC and CFM thank deer hunters for Sharing the Harvest

Missouri deer hunters shared 289,292 pounds of venison to help feed the hungry.

Jefferson City, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) thank the thousands of Missouri deer hunters who donated 289,292 pounds of venison to the state's Share the Harvest program this past deer season. The donated deer meat will help feed hungry Missourians all around the state.

This season's total of 289,292 pounds of venison included nearly 5,600 whole deer. Hunters donated 198,277 pounds of venison the year before. Since the program was started in 1992, Share the Harvest has provided nearly 4 million pounds of lean, healthy venison to help feed hungry Missourians.

Share the Harvest is coordinated by MDC and CFM. It works by deer hunters donating their extra venison to more than 100 participating meat processors throughout the state who grind the deer meat into ready-to-use packages. The packaged venison is then given to local food banks and food pantries for distribution to Missourians in need of food assistance.

"Hunters started Share the Harvest because they saw a need in their communities," said MDC Director Sara Pauley. "And hunters remain the driving force behind this popular program that helps feed our fellow Missourians who are in need. We sincerely thank the thousands of deer hunters who support Share the Harvest, along with the many participating meat processors and sponsors."

Processing fees are covered entirely or in part by numerous local supporting organizations and statewide sponsors, which include: MDC, CFM, Shelter Insurance, Bass Pro Shops, Missouri Chapter Safari Club International, Missouri Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, Midway USA Inc., Missouri Food Banks Association, and United Bowhunters of Missouri.

"Share the Harvest is a partnership of citizens, agencies, organizations and corporations working together to provide healthy, protein-rich meat to those who may otherwise go without," said CFM Executive Director Brandon Butler. "Hunters across Missouri should be proud of this outstanding program."

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Hunters Harvest 10,025 Deer During Alternative-Methods Portion

FEBRUARY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Hunters Harvest 10,025 Deer During Alternative-Methods Portion

[Hunters harvest 10,025 deer during alternative-methods portion](#)

[Top harvest counties: Howell with 249 deer harvested, Franklin with 215, and Oregon with 214.](#)

Jefferson City, Missouri - Preliminary data from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) shows that deer hunters in Missouri harvested 10,025 deer during the alternative-methods portion of the fall firearms deer season, which ran Dec. 23 - Jan. 2. Of the total harvest, 2,827 were antlered bucks, 1,312 button bucks, and 5,886 does.

Top harvest counties were Howell with 249 deer harvested, Franklin with 215, and Oregon with 214.

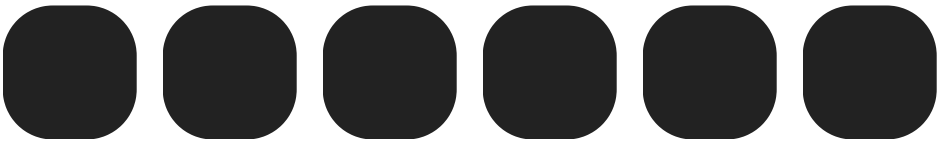
The harvest total for last year’s alternative-methods portion was 10,602 consisting of 2,787 antlered bucks, 1,496 button bucks, and 6,319 does.

Deer hunting continues for this season with statewide archery hunting through Jan. 15.

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MDC Issues Forest Health Alert for Emerald Ash Borer

FEBRUARY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

MDC Issues Forest Health Alert for Emerald Ash Borer

[MDC issues forest health alert for Emerald Ash Borer](#)
[Tree-killing pest has spread to 42 Missouri counties, suspected in more locations.](#)

Missouri - Forest health professionals with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) advise Missourians to watch for damage from an invasive tree pest in winter months. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, metallic green beetle native to Asia that attacks and kills ash trees.

EAB attacks all species of ash trees, and kills nearly every tree it infests. At approximately a half-inch long, the green adult beetle feeds on leaves and does very little damage to trees. However, in its larval stage, the insect kills ash trees by feeding on the water- and nutrient-conducting tissues just under the bark.

The destructive insect has been confirmed in 42 Missouri counties, as well as the City of St. Louis, and is suspected to be present in several more locations.

MDC encourages Missourians to watch for signs of this invasive pest during winter months. While birding, watching wildlife, hiking, or enjoying other outdoor pursuits this winter, keep an eye out for bark blanding on ash trees. Bark blanding is caused by woodpeckers removing a tree's outer bark while searching for insect larvae. On ash trees, this feeding activity reveals a white inner bark that is highly noticeable. Ash trees with bark blanding may not have EAB, but it is certainly worth reporting these trees for a closer look by trained foresters.

"EAB is estimated to cost Missourians more than \$180-million in tree treatments, removals, and replacements over the next 20 years," said MDC Forest Entomologist Robbie Doerhoff. "If you have a healthy, high-value ash tree in your yard, it can be treated with insecticides that will protect it from EAB. However, these treatments can be expensive and must be applied every year or two to guarantee protection. For some ash trees, the best option is removal and replanting with a different species such as an oak native to Missouri."

MDC encourages Missourians to help prevent the spread of this destructive pest by learning to identify signs of EAB and reporting possible infestations in counties where EAB has not yet been confirmed.

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Winona Man Gigs State-Record Northern Hog Sucker

FEBRUARY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Winona man gigs state-record northern hog sucker

MDC congratulates Richard Bradshaw on breaking the state record by gigging a 2-pound, 12-ounce northern hog sucker on the Current River.

Carter County, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports Richard Bradshaw of Winona became the most recent state-record-fish breaker in Missouri when he gigged a northern hog sucker on the Current River in Carter County. The new “alternative method” record fish caught by Bradshaw on Jan. 27 weighed 2 pounds, 12 ounces with a length of 18.6 inches. Bradshaw’s recent catch broke the previous state record by 4 ounces.

MDC staff verified the northern hog sucker’s weight on a certified scale in West Plains. This is the first state-record fish of 2018.

Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: throwlines, trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

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