Ussurian or Harbin Pear
**Ussurian or Harbin Pear**
*(Pyrus ussuriensis)*

**General Description**
The hardiest of all pears, introduced from northeastern Asia. White flowers, semi-glossy foliage and dense, variably-rounded forms are of particular interest. The largest tree in North Dakota is 29 feet tall with a canopy spread of 24 feet.

**Leaves and Buds**
Bud Arrangement - Alternate.
Bud Color - Buds with overlapping scales, blackish-brown.
Bud Size - 1/8 to 1/4 inch.
Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, ovate.
Leaf Margins - Setosely-serrate.
Leaf Surface - Smooth or nearly so, leathery.
Leaf Length - 2 to 4 inches.
Leaf Width - 1½ to 2½ inches.
Leaf Color - Semi-glossy, dark green; orange to yellow fall color.

**Flowers and Fruits**
Flower Type - Umbel-like racemes.
Flower Color - Faintly pink in bud, finally white.
Fruit Type - Subglobose 1-inch pome, short-stalked.
Fruit Color - Fruits are greenish-yellow.

**Form**
Growth Habit - The habit is dense and upright, becoming rounded, with conspicuous spurs.
Texture - Medium, summer; medium, winter.
Crown Height - 15 to 30 feet.
Crown Width - 15 to 20 feet.
Bark Color - Older branches yellow-gray or yellowish-brown.
Root System - Medium in depth.

**Environmental Requirements**

**Soils**
Soil Texture - Prefers clay loam to sandy loam soils.
Soil pH 5.0 to 7.5. Does not tolerate saline soils.
Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 5.

**Cold Hardiness**
USDA Zone 3.

**Water**
Medium, requires well-drained soils.

**Light**
Full sun.

**Uses**

**Conservation/Windbreaks**
Small to medium tree for farmstead and field windbreaks and riparian plantings.

**Wildlife**
Used for food by a wide variety of birds and mammals. Nesting site for songbirds.

**Agroforestry Products**
Food - The fruit is hard, but may have use for jams and jellies. Sweeter after a frost.
Medicinal - *Pyrus* species are a source of phloretin, an antibiotic.

**Urban/Recreational**
Use in home landscapes and parks as a specimen tree, or in borders or screens.

**Cultivated Varieties**
McDermand Pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis* 'McDermand') - Released by USDA-NRCS, Plant Materials Center, Bismarck, North Dakota as a cultivar seed strain.
Prairie Gem® Flowering Pear (*P. ussuriensis* 'MorDak') - Introduced by NDSU, Fargo, North Dakota. Superior in density, form and foliage qualities. Good replacement for Callery Pear (*P. calleryana*) cultivars which lack hardiness in northern climates.

**Related Species**
Fruiting Pears (*Pyrus x hybrids* - 'Gourmet', 'Luscious', 'Patten', 'Sodak', and 'Unc') - Need two cultivars for pollination and good fruit set.

**Pests**
Pears may be injured by rabbits, mice and deer and should be protected from girdling and browsing.