

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

McDermard Pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis* 'McDermard') - 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 'Ure') - 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.