Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories

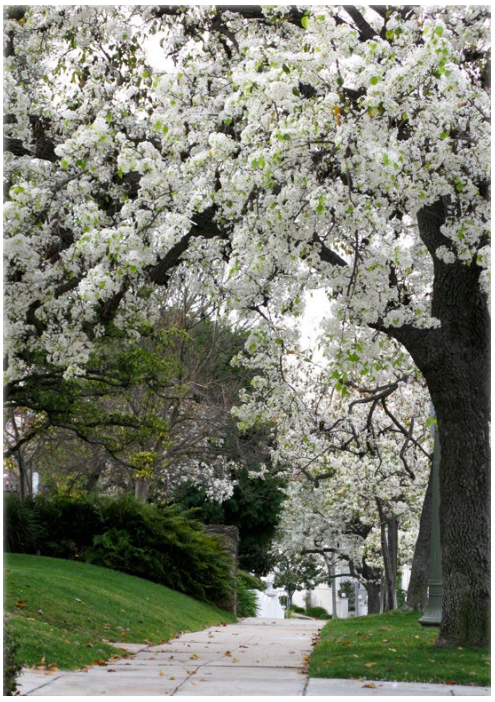
PLANT HEALTH CARE REPORT

Evergreen Pear

Evergreen pear, formerly *Pyrus kawakamii*, (*P. calleryana* var. *calleryana*) is a popular landscape plant throughout much of coastal and southern California. This species tends to be multi-stemmed and shrub-like unless it is trained into a single stem tree. Evergreen pear produces a profusion of white flowers in late winter or early spring. Leaves are glossy green and remain evergreen throughout winter, except in areas with subfreezing temperatures. Fruit is small, inconspicuous, and inedible.

Evergreen pear is very tolerant of poor soils, heat, and other adverse environmental conditions. For this reason, evergreen pear is widely used in parking islands at shopping centers and as a street tree in narrow planting areas beneath utility wires. Evergreen pear is also tolerant of pruning and can be effectively espaliared on frames or fences. It performs best in full sun; in shaded locations,

Irregular crown shape of evergreen pear
Photo courtesy of SelecTree



Flowering in late winter–early spring
Photo courtesy of SelecTree

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flowering is sparse and leaf disease can be severe.

Fireblight, a bacterial disease, is the most serious pest of evergreen pear. The fireblight bacterium *Erwinia amylovora* invades through the flowers and colonizes shoots and branches causing dieback. Leaves turn black and remain attached to branches as if scorched by fire. If left untreated, fireblight can severely disfigure and even kill trees.

A leaf spot disease caused by the fungus *Entomosporium* can cause severe defoliation by early summer. This disease is most prevalent when rainfall is frequent in early spring during leaf expansion.

The principal insect pests of evergreen pear are aphids and scales. Aphids often infest lush growth that develops following drastic pruning.

Monitoring and Treatment Considerations for Evergreen Pear

Mid-winter

Expose and inspect root collar for problems; add mulch as needed. Remove dead, dying, diseased, and broken branches.

Late winter

Apply bactericide treatment to suppress fireblight. Apply dormant treatment to suppress overwintering scales and aphids. Remove diseased branches. Sample soil for nutrient and pH levels.

Early spring

Apply bactericide treatment to suppress fireblight. Apply first fungicide treatment to suppress leaf spot disease. Monitor for aphids; treat as needed.

Mid-spring

Apply second fungicide treatment to suppress leaf spot disease. Monitor for scale and aphids; treat as needed. Remove diseased branches. *Reduce or remove branches to promote appropriate structure or delay until after flowering. If deficiency symptoms are evident, fertilize, adjust pH, and amend soil according to soil analysis.

Late spring

Apply third fungicide treatment to suppress leaf spot disease. Monitor for scale and aphids; treat as needed. Remove diseased branches.

Early through late summer

Monitor for scale and aphids; treat as needed. Remove diseased branches. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture to minimize water stress and prevent root disease.

Fall

If scale and aphids were problematic this past growing season, consider treating with an appropriately timed systemic product.

*Pruning may be done from mid-spring through early summer.