

Chanticleer pear

(*Pyrus calleryana* "Chanticleer") is an ornamental pear tree that originated in China. It is also called the "Select" or "Cleveland Select" ornamental pear. It is smaller than other ornamental pear species, and fits easily in medium and large yards or gardens. It is a deciduous tree that maintains its attractiveness throughout the year, ultimately shedding its leaves during the winter. Chanticleer pear trees thrive in Sunset's Climate Zones 1 through 9 and 16 through 22.

Size and Color

The Chanticleer pear tree is smaller and narrower than its ornamental pear relatives. It is oval in shape and widest where the branches begin. The branches taper into a point near the top of the tree. The Chanticleer pear stands between 25 and 35 feet, but some grow as tall as 40 feet. The branches spread between 15 and 25 feet wide. The bark of the Chanticleer pear tree is reddish-brown. During the summer, the tree is covered with glossy, deep green leaves. The color transitions to a golden-red or purple-red color during the fall. In the winter, the Chanticleer pear sheds its leaves, exposing thick, sturdy branches. The Chanticleer pear blooms in late April or early May, covering the tree in dense, white flower clusters.

Fruit

After the Chanticleer pear flowers in the spring, the tree produces small, round fruit. The fruit is nothing like a pear you would find in the grocery store -- it is about the size of a pea. The fruit is edible, although the extreme bitter flavor makes it rather distasteful to most. The fruit of the Chanticleer pear tree attracts birds, and stays on the tree throughout the fall and winter. Plant a Chanticleer pear tree not for its fruit, but for its ornamental flowers and vibrant colors throughout the seasons.

Care and Hardiness

The Chanticleer pear tree requires the most care during its first year of growth. After the first year, the Chanticleer pear is hardy and can withstand varying conditions, as well as limited maintenance. It is strong enough to handle climates with hot, dry spells during the summer; or the weight of ice and snow in colder climates during the winter. As the roots form during its first year, water your Chanticleer pear tree weekly, as the tree requires moist soil conditions. After the

first year, reduce watering to once or twice a month if there is a dry spell. The Chanticleer pear thrives in soil that is slightly acidic, but it is tolerant of most soil conditions. Chanticleer pears require pruning once after the tree flowers during its first year. After that, prune the tree only when needed to control growth. For the best spring flowering, fertilize a Chanticleer pear each year before the tree blooms.

Planting

The Chanticleer pear is a moderately fast-growing tree that works well in large yards or gardens. Due to their hardiness, Chanticleer pears make good street or sidewalk trees. The tree does not produce any large above-ground roots that harm pavement. When planting near a building or swimming pool, place Chanticleer pears at least 10 feet away from the foundation. Allow for six feet in between walkways, fences or utility boxes and air-conditioning units. Keep at least 20 feet of space between the tree and septic systems. When planting multiple Chanticleer pear trees in the same space, allow 18 feet in between each tree for growth.