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*Pyrus pyrifolia*

[Synonyms : *Ficus pyrifolia*, *Pyrus montana*, *Pyrus serotina*, *Pyrus sinensis*]

**ASIAN PEAR** is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to central and western China it has small, white flowers and leaves that turn red, orange and yellow in Autumn.

It is also known as Apple pear, *Asiatische Birne* (German), Chinese pear, Chinese sand pear, Japanese pear, Japanese sand pear, Nakai sand pear, *Nashi* (Czech, Danish, German), Nashi fruit, Nashi pear, *Naši* (Czech), Oriental pear, Pearapple, Salad pear, *Sandbirne* (German), *Sandpær* (Danish), and Sand pear.

*Pyrifolia* is made up of the genus name *Pyrus* (also a classical Latin name for pear) and Latin - *folia* (leaved) components.

Some authorities claim that this tree (with its small apple-shaped, white-spotted, brown fruit) was introduced to California ie. North America, by Chinese miners during the 1849 Gold Rush. Others believe it reached that Continent in 1909. The tree was introduced to Vietnam in the 1960s.

Asian pear is cultivated in tropical Asia and its pear-like taste is complemented with a crisp apple-like texture.