

Plantline

January 2013

A Newsletter from Carlton Plants LLC

Season of the Witch

By Will Steller

Finding new or less used species is a challenge for all growers and plant lovers. One of the more interesting species I sell is Hamamelis. This group can thrive in USDA Zones 5-8. The native *H. vernalis* can be found growing happily in Zone 4 and you can even cover Zone 3 if you choose to grow the native *H. virginiana*.



Hamamelis Rubra

during the months of late January, February, March and early April depending on the area. This is perfect for early gardeners itching for something to get at their local garden center besides houseplants and Easter lilies. What a great way to take pre-orders. Hamamelis is a wonderful plant to discover during a winter talk at a local garden center or garden club. It is also a fan favorite when forced into bloom for major trade shows around the country.

This group is a must for the collector, gardener, or true horticulturist. Hamamelis should be deemed responsible for the awakening of many plant lovers each and every spring. An individual that is snowshoeing or cross-country skiing in the late winter months can usually share a wonderful story of finding a patch or stand of the native selections of *H. virginiana* or *H. vernalis*.

Most likely they discovered the fragrance first, and then got to enjoy the fireworks show that covered the bare, snow covered stems.



Hamamelis virginiana



Hamamelis Arnolds Promise

If you are not familiar with the blossom of this group, you have truly missed out. Depending on cultivar there are quite a few differences in blossom color and fragrance. Blooms are spider-like and colors range from pale to bright yellows, oranges, and reds. Most are extremely fragrant. The majority of plants will bloom on naked stems, which is quite a show. The leaf comes out after the blossom. Sounds pretty nice so far, but here comes the challenge for you and me. Almost all of the Hamamelis bloom in the months of late winter and early spring. To meet the challenge we must capitalize on the attributes.

Hamamelis can be displayed in full blossom in rewholesale yards as material is just starting to come in. It helps wake up the aggressive landscaper! It is also seen in full bloom inside garden centers



Hamamelis Diane fall color

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Planting guidelines for Hamamelis

- One important fact is not to overwater these bare root transplants. Many folks will put this genus in with the rest of the potted shrub or tree liners. Hamamelis cannot tolerate constant watering until it has broken out of its dormancy. They do not like to sit in water. Cool damp roots will prevent the buds from opening and eventually root rot will occur.
- Water witch hazel plants during dry periods, particularly if they are young or still establishing. Lack of moisture can be a problem in winter as well as in hot summers, with flowers aborting because of insufficient moisture levels. Conserve water by mulching the root area in late winter or early spring.
- Plant in an open, sunny or partially shaded area, as plants can become straggly in full shade. Avoid exposed and windy positions.
- Witch hazels need free-draining soil conditions with an adequate supply of moisture. A light soil with plenty of added organic matter, such as well-rotted manure or compost, is best. They will tolerate heavy or clay soils if they are improved by digging in organic matter and by ensuring good drainage.
- Acid to neutral soil pH is preferred (pH 4.5-6.5).



Shrub field



Arnolds Promise

Pruning and training for Hamamelis

- It is strongly suggested that a tip pruning be performed right after the first planting. This will help the plant break dormancy and leaf out.
- Hamamelis need little pruning if you have room to let them grow freely to their full size. Simply prune out any dead or damaged wood, cutting to healthy young growth. Remove any congested, crossing or weak shoots.
- If you need to restrict the size of your witch hazel, then the following steps may help:
- Prune after flowering, cutting back the previous season's growth to two leaf buds.
- Distinguish the leaf buds by their longer narrower shape, compared to more rounded flower buds. Try not to remove flower buds.
- This pruning will encourage new extension growth and will also promote flower bud formation at the base of the new shoots.

Hopefully this information has enticed the plant lover in all of you to discover or rediscover a plant group that has plenty of potential in the landscape. The value of this plant in the landscape is tremendous. It is easy to maintain and has terrific fall color as well as some interesting characteristic in the landscape. A true thrill is to see a Hamamelis fireworks show right after a fresh snow. Witch hazel is definitely worth having in the garden.



Jelena



Diane



Barmsted Gold

We offer multiple selections in both tree and shrub form listed below with zone hardiness, fragrance and color.

Our tree form is offered on a 3' grafted standard.

Tree form:

Hamamelis x	Zone:	Fragrance:	Blossom Color:
'Arnold's Promise'	5-8	yes	Clear yellow, reddish Calyx
'Barmstedt Gold'	5-8	yes	Rich Golden Yellow
'Diane'	5-8	yes	Red—Copper red
'Jelena'	5-8	yes	Copper-red (copper beauty)
'Rubin'	5-8	light	Red- holds color longer

Shrub form:

Hamamelis virginiana (native)	3-8	yes	Yellow (blooms Oct-Dec)
Hamamelis vernalis (native)	4-8	yes	Bright yellow

Our Intermedia group is also grafted as a multi stem

Hamamelis x 'Arnold's Promise'	5-8	yes	Clear yellow, reddish Calyx
Hamamelis x 'Barmstedt Gold'	5-8	yes	Rich Golden Yellow
Hamamelis x 'Diane'	5-8	yes	Red—Copper red
Hamamelis x 'Jelena'	5-8	yes	Copper-red (copper beauty)
Hamamelis x 'Rubin'	5-8	light	Red- holds color longer

Rebuilding Secret Arboretum

By Adam McClanahan & Ken Cochran

On September 16, 2010, at 5:30 pm, a tornado ripped through the 102-year-old research arboretum, causing the loss of more than 1,500 large trees and leveling a newly constructed 3-season pavilion. The EF-2 tornado at speeds up to 130 mph swept its destructive power through the heart of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, the research arm of the Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The devastating storm entered the OARDC main entrance, quickly passing into the central portion of the campus and cut a wide swath through the 120 acre Secret Arboretum. The storm was remarkably



Broken trees

Optimism arose with visions, inspirations and support to turn a hardship into an opportunity at Secret Arboretum. OSU/ATI faculty member Dr. Laura Deeter immediately posted the arboretum damage on Facebook. She was quickly inundated with offers of assistance from former students now serving in the industry wanting to come out and help... "What can I do? We've got to rebuild Secret." Over the next few days as news of the tornado spread, offers of support continued to roll in from individuals, communities and industry professionals. "The overall response to help was truly a blessing," said Ken Cochran, curator at Secret since 1984. Transformation followed as Ohio State announced the creation of the Secret Renewal Fund. The generosity from supporters from far and wide (over 461) along with the incredible response from green industries made renewal possible.

A 2004 Secret strategy created a remarkable public-private partnership to help Secret Arboretum adapt to changing economic times. Today, Secret is state assisted, not state supported. A Growing for You Development Campaign, 2005-2010, allowed the arboretum to grow into a facility that included both research and outreach through the development of themed landscape gardens and outdoor amenities. "Research can be beautiful and useful," said Cochran. "During the Growing for You Campaign, we had a very strong program of private support with over a million and a half dollars contributed to enhance Secret and sustain programming. A large portion of that support came through in-kind gifts

of design services and prime plant material from green industries."

Green Industries again partnered with Secret following the 2010 tornado with time, talent and treasure. They contributed over \$70,000 in-kind donations of trees and ornamental plants as well as labor, equipment and professional services along with philanthropy support. Trees and shrubs were not only donated from Ohio but also came from surrounding states and as far west as Oregon. "Obviously, this partnership is a point of pride in an industry that has greatly helped us fulfill the promise of value to Ohio citizens and beyond. Green Industries served for the well-being of others and their service has strengthened Secret in immeasurable ways." Cochran said, "The support from people in the industry has been tremendous."



Volunteers planting

Monetary donations arrived in all sizes, from a \$50,000 raised by the Ohio Master Gardeners to \$25,000 donated by the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association to \$300 of coins delivered in jars and by the handfuls from the young students of the Montessori School of Wooster. Helping hands also came from local groups as well industry professionals donating time and equipment in an unselfish effort to assist in the rebuilding. In all, over \$400,000 worth of cash and in-kind gifts has been donated.



Willoway delivering trees



Broken, uprooted trees and debris after the tornado

highlighted by the fact no one was seriously injured or killed. Within the rubble lay heavily damaged brick buildings, twisted metal frames that once formed greenhouses, mounds of rubble and debris, and hundreds of uprooted and shorn trees. A century of plant life was lost along with trees planted by Edmund Secret, who launched the beginning of the Forest Arboretum and for whom it was renamed Secret Arboretum in 1950. OARDC research operations were severely impacted by the destruction of greenhouses and buildings and the work of many faculty, staff and graduate students was set back and impacted.



Ken Cochran 1000th tree planted

Exactly one year to the day after the tornado, Secrest planted the 1000th tree in the renewal project.

Trees are the single most important feature of an arboretum and the feature in restoring Secrest. Plant explorers initially introduced many species of trees that have been included into the present

day landscape mix. Today, green industries and the academic world have expanded the species list with many outstanding selections, including many genetic improvements. Cochran embraced the idea of including many of these cultivars into the mix of new plantings. It is not inconceivable that a forest will be hit and even destroyed by a storm in the prime of its life. But renewal can also come about through natural reforestation. There is good science in forest regeneration and part of Secrest's renewal effort is natural regeneration. Dr. Charles Goebal, Associate Chair, School of Natural Resources and Associate Professor OSU/OARDC along with graduate students will design studies of invasive species and of the development of decay fungi in these areas.

Now two years later, a tornado-stricken arboretum has grown new life and hope. "We're going to have a landscape of diversity. We realized major loss and for that we grieved; but we focused on overcoming and renewal, on the generations ahead for Secrest. Restoring the arboretum to the way it was may not be realistic; instead we embraced what we have with a new array of plant material to enhance environmental quality and sustainability. Our gratitude - our humbleness - in accepting all your gifts, all your love, all your caring is just one of the most rewarding parts of my job," said Cochran adding, "This is your arboretum as well as ours. We'll have a new look, one that the green industries should be proud of." 



Fall at Secrest - *Chrysanthemum dendranthema bolero*



Slide in the childrens section



Renewal Anniversary 2011



What is Secrest?

Edmund Secrest came to Ohio in 1905 to study ways to improve environmental conditions following the heavy loss of trees between the Civil War and the early 1900's. He immediately began a research and outreach program to "plant trees" and in 1909 he set out the first planting for a proposed Forest Arboretum. In 1915, Dr. Secrest introduced legislation to form the Ohio Forest Service. The arboretum was renamed in his honor in 1950.

Today, it is a 125 acre outdoor research and educational laboratory with theme gardens, plant collections, and outdoor venues. Secrest Arboretum & Gardens within the Ohio State University Wooster Campus, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, is the centerpiece for multidisciplinary programs; a cherished space for research, education and natural beauty with a commitment to environmental quality and sustainability.

The research work of OSU/OARDC is bringing Knowledge to Life through advanced bio-energy and bio-based products; environmental quality and sustainability; food security, production, and human health. Secrest Arboretum has been testing plant species and cultivars for environmental quality, especially under the stress typically experienced in the landscape; heat, cold, drought, wet, insects, disease. There have been some winners and some losers, along with degrees of tolerances in-between. The study, introduction and exhibit of plants in botanical gardens and arboreta offers environmental quality and sustainable value for the landscape and a shopping list for people seeking to create landscapes for the well-being of communities. Secrest has a sense of place for its visitors...

* LEARN * EXPLORE * WONDER * CONNECT

To learn more about Secrest Arboretum ...please visit www.secrest.osu.edu 

Keep on Truckin'

By Catie Anderson



Bareroot is one of the most economical nursery products to ship. It is lighter than most other nursery products and much more can be packed into a truck resulting in considerably less freight per plant. Freight costs can vary depending on location and time of year. Prices are typically a little less early in the year and may rise in March and April when demand and competition for trucks increases. The trucks are billed by mile and per drop. Freight costs are allocated to each order based on footage and location.

Over the past few years there has been a decrease in truck availability. Building good relationships with brokers is important. They have been able to cover demands with good equipment and reliable drivers for reasonable rates.

Communication is key. Sales people contact customers two weeks before scheduled ship dates to check contact information and to make sure they're ready to receive the material. For customers picking up their orders a minimum of five days notice is typically requested to allow time for pulling and staging. This information is relayed to the inside sales people and the process begins. When the truck leaves the nursery customers are called with an estimated date of arrival. The drivers are asked to call each customer 24 hours in advance so a crew can be there to unload the truck when they arrive. Delays can cost time

and money for both drivers and the customers. There are many issues that can affect the delivery schedule, such as weather or mechanical difficulties.

Before plants are loaded onto a truck, the vehicle bed is inspected for defects that could pose problems during transport. The grooved floor in the refrigerated cargo unit will be covered with 1/4" wax covered cardboard or wood paneling. By keeping the floor grooves free of debris, maximum air circulation is achieved. This maintains consistent temperature throughout the truck. The floor is then layered with straw or cedar shavings for holding moisture. The layer of packing material is copiously wetted with water prior to loading plants.



Plywood floor covering

Each order on the truck is clearly separated with plastic and marked with signs and tags. The driver has the truck manifest which provides a list of what is on the load for checking the order as it is unloaded.



Stop card at the end of the order



Loading crew

Temperature devices record the temperature inside the refer trucks. The first order loaded on the truck will have a temperature device attached to a bundle of plants. Customers who have the device are asked to drop the prepackaged and stamped device in the mail. A report showing time and temperature for the duration of the trip is sent back to the nursery.



Temperature Device

Shipping is one of the most important and yet challenging aspects of our business. By taking the necessary steps and precautions and paying attention to the details, your plant material will consistently be received in a timely manner and in excellent condition.



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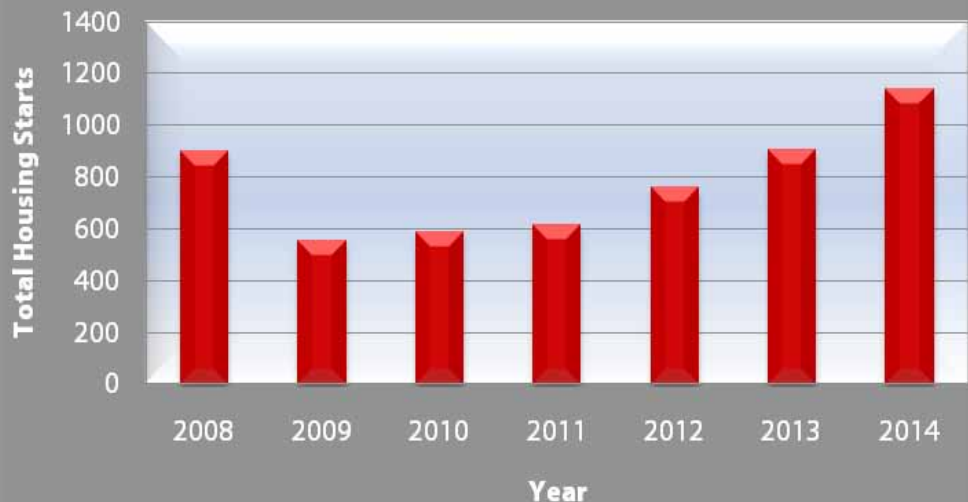


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On the Bright Side

Housing Forecast



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