

## Low Maintenance Tree Alternatives for the Landscape

- By Dick Bocci

Whether working, raising families, traveling or playing, Americans want to do it all and still have the home and yard of their dreams. We all want that easy to maintain yard that looks wonderful, but doesn't take time from our busy schedules and lifestyles to keep it looking that way.

In order to achieve this, we must look for plant material that will make our homes look attractive, continue to grow in value, but require little or no maintenance. We want trees that require very little pruning or no pruning at all. We want trees that are free from diseases and other pests, trees that don't sucker from the root system (understock) and ornamental trees that flower and display nice persistent fruit that is attractive to birds.

The following are ten examples of trees that would fill this need for the low maintenance yard:

- *Aesculus Autumn Splendor* – A small flowering chestnut with great maroon-red fall color. No serious pest problems. Minimum pruning required.
- *Carpinus betulus Pyramidalis* – a tight formal tree when young becoming pyramidal with age. Clean tree with good disease resistance. No pruning required.
- *Cornus mas Golden Glory* – Slow growing to 20'. Profuse yellow flowers in the spring. cherry red fruit attracts birds. Drought tolerant. Virtually pest free. Minimum pruning required.
- *Ginkgo Princeton Sentry®* - An upright, columnar grafted male ginkgo. Good pest disease resistance. Minimum pruning required.
- *Malus Lancelot®* (P.P. 8056) – A highly disease-free dwarf growing flowering crabapple. Requires very little pruning. When purchased on the SproutFree® rootstock, there are virtually no root suckers to remove.
- *Parrotia persica* – An upright oval tree with gray & white exfoliating bark. Resistant to disease and insects. Tolerates drought, heat, cold and wind.
- *Cercifiplylum japonicum* (Katsura Tree) – Pyramidal when young. Blue-green heart shaped leaves. Slow grower. A trouble free tree with no serious disease or pest problems. Requires little pruning.
- *Styrax japonicum* (Japaneese Snowball) – A new selection Emerald Pagoda has a pyramidal growth habit. Beautiful foliage, incredible blooms. A heat tolerant selection with good disease resistance.
- *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple) – Exquisite cinnamon colored exfoliating bark. Very adaptable to acid or alkaline soils. Great for limited spaces or low clearance. Good disease resistance.
- *Tilia tomentosa Sterling®* - A tree with outstanding foliage. Fragrant yellowish white flowers in July. Adapts to dry conditions. Resistant to Japanese beetle and Gypsy moth. Disease resistant.

These ten examples are but a few trees that one might look for when trying to find the perfect tree for that special spot requiring little or no maintenance.



Styrax Emerald Pagoda



Aesculus Autumn Splendor



Malus Lancelot®



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## Spotlight on the Marilee®

*Malus Marilee®* cv. 'Jarmin' (PP 14337) ZONE 4-8 Ht. 25' Spread 10'

*Marilee®* Crabapple has a neat, upright form. Pink-red buds open to semi-double white flowers. This spur type variety produces profuse blooming with little or no fruit. Highly resistant to scab, rust and fireblight. Introduced by Marvin Jarvin.



# Plantline



April 2008

A Newsletter from Carlton Plants LLC

## Autumn Radiance® Maple for Fall Color Extraordinaire

-by Joe Dixon

Of all the *Acer rubrum* varieties, 'Autumn Radiance®' captures light and reflects it back with a luminosity like no other upon turning red in the fall. On a sunny autumn day, this variety virtually lights up the landscape with its fluorescent red reflection.

I have a row of ten of these spectacular trees planted along my property line in Northwest Oregon and when they turn their fall color each year they are a radiant red feast for the eyes.

If the staff at Carlton was to recommend one tree variety to brighten up the fall landscape, Autumn Radiance® would be our number one choice.

It has a few other nice attributes. In the spring it flowers quite heavily for a *rubrum*, with a bright red ornamental inflorescence, yet produces a minimal amount of seed.

This red *rubrum* is an early fall color producer in the landscape, about two weeks ahead of typical *rubrums*. Cold hardiness will allow it to tolerate USDA Zone 4 conditions, yet it colors up well with a low winter chill in milder climates.

As a young tree, it grows more upright but as it matures it rounds out to a beautifully balanced head, with an approximate fifty foot height and forty foot spread, providing the landscape with a tree form of classic proportions.

Moderate growth rate, branching structure, and crotch angles provide for excellent limb strength with none of the brittleness as seen in some *rubrums* or *rubrum* hybrids. Branching is consistent and well mannered making it easy to prune into a specimen shade tree.

*Acer rubrum* 'Autumn Radiance®' is a wonderful (relatively new) choice with which to light up and grace our urban landscapes.



"Every year one day comes, when, although there is no obvious change in the appearance of trees and hedges, the Earth seems to breath and it is spring."  
Elizabeth Clarke,  
The Darkening Green



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Carlton Field Representatives

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## New Plant Additions from Carlton

### Trees

Acer tar. Pattern Perfect™ Multi-Stem  
Amelanchier lamarckii  
Catalpa speciosa  
Cotinus coggygia Golden Spirit®  
Liquidambar styraciflua Happidaze®  
Malus Marilee®  
Malus Purple Prince® Multi-Stem  
Parrotia persica Ruby Vase  
Prunus Pink Snow Showers®  
Prunus Crimson Pointe®  
Quercus Heritage®  
Quercus Regal Prince®  
Taxodium distichum Shawnee Brave™  
Zelkova serrata 'Musashino'

### Fruit Trees

Semi-Dwarf Evans Bali Cherry

### Shrubs

Amelanchier can. Rainbow Pillar®  
Cercis canadensis 'Alba'  
Rosa Double Knockout®  
Rosa Sunny Knockout®  
Syringa pekinensis Summer Charm®  
Viburnum prunifolium

### Rootstocks & Seedlings

Carpinus caroliniana  
Eucommia ulmoides  
Malus Dolgo  
Prunus cerasifera Myrobalan



Sunny Knockout®

- by Allan Elliott

On my way to work last September, I turned onto the main highway that leads to Carlton Plants. In the predawn light, I could make out figures in the darkness. As I approached, the headlights illuminated an accident with debris spread across two lanes of highway. There was confusion and disarray. It took several moments to realize what had happened. A car had rear ended a slow moving tractor without ever hitting the brakes. The driver of the car stated repeatedly that she never saw the tractor.

The paramedics arrived and I notified the local farmer who owned the tractor of the accident. The memory of this tragedy will not be forgotten. My thoughts then shifted to all of the nursery vehicles and tractors that travel this road on a daily basis. This was a wake-up call.

Since that time, we have evaluated every aspect of road safety affecting nursery equipment. We have developed guidelines to



Catalpa speciosa



Quercus Heritage® Oak



Prunus Crimson Pointe®



Taxodium distichum  
Shawnee Brave



Prunus Pink Snow Showers®



Evans Bali Cherry



Viburnum prunifolium

## Evaluating the Cost of Tree Liners

Who among us doesn't like to get a good deal? When shopping for a new vehicle or piece of equipment, the decision can sometimes boil down to who has the lowest price. Using this logic when buying tree liners may not be the best approach. Vehicles or equipment are end products of a production process and are built to perform specific jobs. With tree liners, there is a whole different set of dynamics at work. The major difference is that the liner is at the beginning stage of what it will develop into after it has been growing in a field or container for one to five years or longer. One must start with a tree liner that has the quality, structure and viability built into it to begin the next state of its life in the best condition possible.

The value in a tree liner is determined by several factors, some of which include:

- How and when the liners are harvested
- How the liners are processed and then stored
- How the liners are handled, prepared and loaded for shipping

It is much easier to grow a fine quality tree by starting with a liner that exhibits the quality and value of a superior product.

Carlton Plants LLC is a grower of shade tree liners and must keep in mind the same value concerns as our customers. To produce quality finished trees and shrubs to sell, we must consider seedling size, health, vigor, strict harvest, grading, storage and handling standards, so after planting, the liners will respond vigorously to our cultural practices.

As a customer, a major consideration should be if a supplier has paid proper attention to all the cultural details from the propagation stage to delivery of the product. Price is important, but value needed for future production and sales is even more so.

## Upgrading Equipment for Safety's Sake

address: road conditions, operator responsibilities, handling of and training for specific types of machinery on the highway, identifying specific hazards, communication of those to others and improving the visibility of nursery equipment for other drivers.

Visibility and illumination of equipment became a big element in our program. We first identified categories of equipment: tractors, trailers, implements, etc. Each category was reviewed and equipment

evaluated to determine ways of improving visibility for each. The shop searched catalogs for parts and supplies, purchased and tested them and developed guidelines for retrofitting our equipment.

The 2008 budget included several thousand dollars to cover supplies for upgrading the visibility of our equipment. One individual in our shop has been designated to make the improvements as we bring equipment through the shop to

service prior to use this spring and summer.

Each piece of equipment receives an upgrade according to standards set by the shop. Options available include: forward headlights, amber and red flashing hazard lights, red tail lights, SMV sign, rotating or strobe light (at high point), reflective tape (at widest point, across the back & on sides of trailers). All new lights will be LED type. Others options include: wide load signage and portable, magnetic base rotating lights for flaggers.

Once outfitted the newly illuminated equipment is observed under various conditions and evaluated for success.

New guidelines for operators state, "All lights of all types to be on when operating on the highway."

This has been a significant effort in labor and expense of materials. However, the value of saving a life is priceless.

