

Pot Tumbler Saves Time and Money

- by Allan Elliott

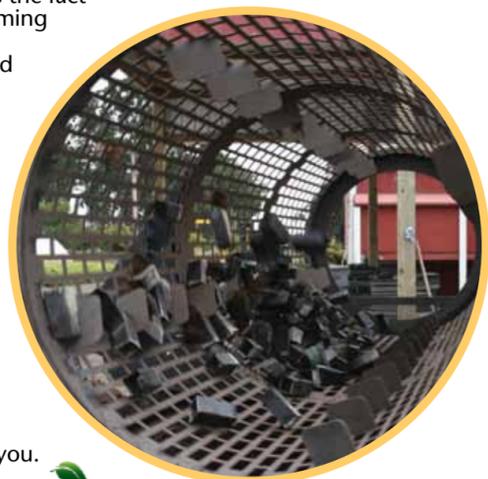
Anyone who has ever dumped out plants or soil from small pots would understand what a repetitive and time consuming task it can be. Adding insult to injury is the fact that these are usually dead plants, culls or under-performing product.

Facing this issue repeatedly year after year prompted us to seek an alternative solution. We turned to GK Machine, a local fabricator of nursery machinery. They provided what we refer to as "the Pot Tumbler". The simplicity and function of this product is excellent. The pot tumbler is basically a rolling tube with slots to allow soil to escape and baffles to agitate the contents.

Pots are dumped in at one end, tumbled to loosen soil and plants (which fall out of the slots) and the pots come out of the other end clean. In our experience, seldom does new machinery and the mechanization of an activity work so flawlessly.

The process is easily handled by one individual. The pot tumbler has saved us thousands of hours over the years with very little maintenance or repairs.

Visitors to the nursery have repeatedly expressed amazement at this machine, therefore we share it with you.



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Actual tag size is: 2" x 4-3/8"



SproutFree(R) tags are now available to all retailers or growers offering trees grown on SproutFree(R) rootstock. Please contact our sales office or your Carlton Plants Sales Representative if you would like to place an order for this tag.



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Plantline



April 2009

A Newsletter from Carlton Plants LLC

Halesia monticola var. vestita

- by Dave Cox

With spring approaching, we look forward to seeing flowering trees begin to show their color. One genus in particular, where we anxiously await the appearance of flowers is Halesia, commonly known as Silverbell or Snowdrop Tree.

Vestita, a variety of Mountain Silverbell, is a medium sized tree. It reaches 40 to 50 feet tall with a 25-35 foot spread and a hardiness zone of 4 to 8. The mostly white fragrant flowers are outstanding and larger than other varieties or cultivars. Halesias are native to the southeastern United States and grow along woodlots or as an understory tree.

Vestita prefers an acid (pH 5 to 6) well drained soil. Very few if any pest or disease problems bother this tree. Not a commonly known or used plant, it can be placed in a lawn area or with other plants that prefer an acid soil. It will not tolerate high pH alkaline soils and will become chlorotic.

For several years we have been doing trials and observing various Halesias. Vestita is the one we like best. If you would like something a little different to try, Vestita would provide quite a show with snowdrop-like flowers hanging from the underside of its branches in the spring.



"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

- Barbara Winkler



Tea Time at Carlton Plants .. Compost Tea

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New Plant Listings for 2009-2010

Carlton Customer Alameda Wholesale Nursery

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Adam McClanahan Joins Carlton Plants

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Pot Tumbler

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Carlton Field Representatives

SproutFree(R) tags Available

Thank You To Our Customers

All of us at Carlton

Plants extend our

appreciation and

gratitude to you, our

customers, for your

continuing business.

The fact that you

choose Carlton Plants

as a supplier means

everything to us. Our

resolve and dedication

to supplying you with

the highest level of

consistent quality and

service remain as strong

as always. Exceeding

your expectations and

providing real value

are our goals.

We wish you success in

the months ahead and

we look forward to

working with you again

to supply your needs for

the upcoming 2010

season.

Sincerely,

Everyone at Carlton Plants

Tea Time at Carlton Plants

- by Mike Anderson

The compost program at Carlton Plants' has been up and running for many years and the benefits continue to be seen, most notably including improved crop performance from very small additions of compost to growing fields. We attribute our positive results to the complex biological population of beneficial fungi and bacteria teeming in our high quality compost.

Building from this success, we are investigating the use of compost tea as a crop booster. Compost tea is a product that results from the aerobic extraction of beneficial microbes (fungi, bacteria, nematodes and protozoa) from top quality compost in a highly oxygenated solution of water and nutrients. Benefits noted in the sustainability community include improved crop growth, better pest and disease resistance and improved soil health. Information abounds: a Google search yields close to 300,000 results for compost tea.

We constructed our prototype brewer using a 55 gallon plastic drum, an outdoor pond air pump, and a series of aquarium air stones ("bubblers"). Mature, high quality compost (about 20-25 lb.) is suspended in 45 gallons of water to which is added beneficial amendments, including soluble kelp and humic acid. The water is heated to 65-70° with an aquarium heater. Fish emulsion, oat flour and vermicompost (worm castings) have also been added in

some trials, although a rebellion in the propagation crew led to dropping the fish emulsion until a less obnoxious product is purchased. A brew cycle takes 24 hours, following which the tea is immediately diluted 1:2 and applied as a foliar spray.

Our first trials were applied the summer of 2008 and more will be forthcoming in 2009. Results have been promising with some crops showing positive growth response to 3 applications over the course of the summer.



"Our business is growing"

That is the slogan under the company logo and is exactly what Alameda Wholesale Nursery has been doing in Denver, Colorado since 1945. Alameda started as a retail garden center on a gravel road in the outskirts of Denver. It is now a 30 acre wholesale nursery in the middle of an industrial area. Family owned, there have been five generations of Browns that have worked the nursery. To help them out, there are 80 employees, many of whom have spent their entire careers at Alameda.

When the nursery began, they had a narrow plate of plants. Only 6 pages made up the catalog. Today, the catalog is 154 pages and includes everything from native dry-land plants to the more exotic plants



Itea virginiana
Little Henry(R)



Acer rubrum
Autumn Spire



Rhus typhina
Tiger Eyes



Platanus x acerifolia
Exclamation!(TM)

New Plant Listings for 2009-2010

Trees

Acer campestre Queen Elizabeth™
Acer rubrum 'Autumn Spire' (P.P.7803)
Acer tataricum Hot Wings® Multi-Stem
Amelanchier canadensis Rainbow Pillar® (P.P.9092)
Celtis occidentalis Chicagoland®
Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'
Corylus avellana 'Fusco-rubra'
Liquidambar styraciflua 'Slender Silhouette'
Malus 'Cardinal' (P.P.7174)
Metasequoia glyptostroboides 'Gold Rush'
Physocarpus opulifolius 'Center Glow'
Physocarpus opulifolius Summer Wine® (P.P.14821)
Platanus x acerifolia Exclamation!™
Tilia x mongolica 'Harvest Gold' (P.P.12232)
Ulmus americana 'Princeton'
Fruit Tree: Semi-dwarf Apple Zestar!® (P.P.11367)

Shrubs

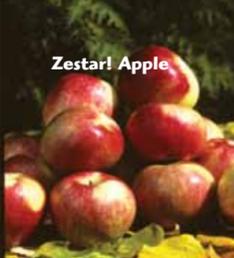
Forsythia x int. 'Spring Glory'
Hydrangea quercifolia 'Snowflake'
Itea virginica Little Henry® (P.P.10988)
Parrotia persica Ruby Vase®
Rhus typhina Tiger Eyes® (P.P.16185)

Rootstocks

Alnus glutinosa
Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent'
Prunus subhirtella



Forsythia 'Spring Glory'



Zestar! Apple



Hydrangea
Snowflake



Malus
Cardinal



Metasequoia
Gold Rush



Cercis canadensis
Forest Pansy

Alameda Wholesale Nursery - By Steve Carlson

of Colorado such as beech, Japanese maples and magnolia. Stan Brown Jr., President of Alameda, commented that 20 years ago he would not have dreamed of selling these plants, but since they have been asked for by their customers so much, they have tried to meet their needs. They buy in 18,000 B&B trees; grow and buy in 186,000 container shrubs as well as 581,000 perennials.

Alameda's primary customer base is the small to medium sized landscaper that comes in to pickup plants and materials for jobs on a daily basis. To help the customers find plants around the nursery they have signs at the end of each block that tell what plants are where. The nursery has also implemented a sales area up front that stocks material from a growing area located in the back of the nursery.

Over the past 30 years, Alameda has seen an

increase in the number of customers who prefer to have their plant material delivered directly to job sites around the Denver metro area. Consequently, there has been additional pressure on equipment, as well as adjustments in the amount of time needed for deliveries and the number of people required for delivering the variety of plants and sizes.

Fortunately, about 20 years ago, Stan came across a 2 ton flatbed truck with a hydraulic boom. The truck was not worth much but the Knuckle boom was of interest as it could pick up to 2000 lbs. or a 10' Colorado blue spruce. They mounted it on one of their delivery trucks and a new era was born. These boom trucks could deliver trees to job sites and unload if the customer didn't have a tractor there! Soon, this one truck would grow to a fleet of trucks with booms on them, quickly distinguishing Alameda

from other nurseries in the Denver area. Alameda currently has 4 two ton trucks with small enclosed boxes behind the driver's cab, for shrubs and perennials, along with the booms to carry B&B trees. They have also acquired a couple of larger trucks with large hydraulic booms that can pick up to 6000 lbs. or place 2" trees as far as 40' away from the truck. These new hydraulic booms are a big improvement from the first booms which were electric and the cable only reached over the side of the truck bed. The new hydraulic booms have compact arms that fit tight behind the cab and can reach 40' away from the truck and also pick up more weight, which Stan calls "way cool".

With the addition of these boom trucks, one truck can deliver an entire order of mixed plant types to a job site with only 1-2 workers. They will even place the trees on the site if they can get the truck close enough to the planting hole. Stan recalled one job that needed some trees to be replaced behind a fence. The customer had them

Welcome Adam McClanahan

We are pleased to announce that Adam McClanahan has joined the sales team at Carlton Plants and will be representing our customers in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia.

While working for a local garden center at 16, the seed was planted, so to say, and Adam's journey into the plant world had begun.

Adam has spent the last 12 years traveling extensively to nurseries throughout the country as a Green Goods buyer with the last seven years in sales, and as Purchasing Manager with Listerman & Associates, Inc. out of Dayton, Ohio. At Listerman's, Adam was also the representative for trade organizations as well as the marketing manager. He's an Ohio certified nurseryman, member of the ONLA Plant Selection Committee and president of the WCCC (Warren County Career Center) Horticulture Program Advisory Committee. Adam also holds a seat on the Warren County Board of Health.

Born and raised in Ohio, he's married to his best friend, Jennifer. They have three children: a son, Sam (7) and two daughters, Mickey (11) and Kristen (18), who is currently a softball and soccer athlete at Cumberland University. Adam is passionate about plants and enjoys the time he spends with the growers at different nurseries.

Adam can be contacted by phone at 800-442-1453 or by fax at 800-442-1454.



use the larger boom to pull the dead trees, lift them over the fence, and then lift the new trees back over the fence and place them next to the planting holes. This added up to big savings of both time and man power for the customer.

