

Ask anyone in our nation what they associate with Oregon and their list will undoubtedly include rain. While our dry, Mediterranean summers are one of our best kept secrets, the long fall, winter and spring seasons may include copious amounts of precipitation, rendering our fields a sloppy mess. Still nursery work must go on, often in far less than desirable conditions.

Some of these tasks are very time sensitive. Seedbed spray applications, layer harvest, sweeping and herbicide application must be done at the proper moment regardless of soil conditions. In the past this has been difficult to impossible. The use of wheel tractors in extremely wet conditions creates massive ruts and causes soil compaction. At times conditions were just too wet and soft to allow for any equipment in the field. Out of this was born the desire for a multi-purpose, reduced ground pressure vehicle that can be used in adverse conditions.

After several years of research and numerous options investigated, we settled on the purchase of Matracks Track-Tor-Assist rubber track conversions, which were installed on a high clearance John Deere 5525 from our propagation department tractor fleet. The Matracks company is based in Minnesota and produces track conversions for ag equipment, ATV's, trucks and other vehicles. The purchase and installation was aided by our local John Deere dealership, Fisher Equipment in McMinnville.

The 'Trackster' arrived this past January and thus far the results of using it have been nothing short of stellar. We were able to apply our winter herbicide applications in the seedbed ground with minimal impact, as well as harvest the apple rootstock layer crop with relative ease. Application of row cover to the seedbeds was accelerated by equipment to speed up staking, while row cover removal has been aided by mounting our pickup reel on a front end loader frame.

We feel we are only scratching the surface of the tasks that can be better accomplished with the Trackster and will continue to develop its use throughout the spring and summer. Our biggest question at propagation is how soon we can get Trackster #2!



We are very pleased to be a part of the WNGA Growers Tour. These tours have always put an emphasis on learning and sharing ideas and innovation to benefit one another. Developing mutually beneficial relationships and the opportunity for face time with industry peers is invaluable.

During the tour we will be discussing cost-saving conservation practices, performance-based production systems and will have on display a variety of innovative multi-tasking machinery.

We welcome everyone on the tour and look forward to you joining us for some traditional Northwest salmon at our annual Farwest Show dinner.



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Hamamelis are a great addition to any landscape, providing year round ornamental value. New selections offer even more attributes and a wide array of leaf, flower and fall color. It is one of the first plants to bloom and can brighten a winter day.

We have learned, especially with newly planted Hamamelis, that they are slower than some genera to break dormancy. Until they have leafed out and



are growing, it is important not to overwater them. Once established they are typically easy to maintain.

We now have good numbers in both tree and shrub form in several unique cultivars.



Plantline



August 2011

A Newsletter from Carlton Plants LLC

Thin is in!

by Adam McClanahan

Columnar and fastigate trees are the ideal plants for areas where space is limited, but vertical effect is desired. In many cases the two names are used interchangeably, however columnar trees are usually single-trunked and naturally narrow whereas fastigate plants typically have multiple trunks or branches that



Populus tremula Erecta

have upright growth and form a uniform canopy. Fastigate plants are usually created through nursery selection while columnar trees are typically natural occurring mutations. Due to a combination of smaller lot sizes and the push for more green space, the demand for these types of trees continues to be strong.

Columnar trees, when used in a smaller yard, can create a unique look to the landscape. They can provide some shade or compliment the lines and architecture of the building. When planted as a hedge, they act as a screen to either block an unwanted view of the surroundings, buffer noise and wind or can be used to create privacy within your own living space.

Commercially, upright growers are the best choice for many situations such as parking lots, street plantings, tree pits or anywhere where restricted space may be an issue.

Between tried and true favorites and the ever increasing number of new introductions,

there are many choices available for these tall, narrow characters. As when making a tree selection for any situation, mature height and width should always be taken into consideration. For a smaller, shorter tree, a few options may be:

Amelanchier Rainbow Pillar- 15-20' tall and 8-10' wide – Mildew resistant with small white flowers and a beautiful fall mix of brilliant red, orange and yellow

Cornus mas Golden Glory- 20-25' tall and 10-15' wide – Drought tolerant, great screening plant with profuse, bright yellow blooms and edible red fruits that attract birds

Malus Adirondack- 15-20' tall and 10-12' wide – Excellent disease resistance with red buds that open to single white blooms followed by an orange-gold fruit

Malus Marilee- 20-25' tall and 8-10' wide – Neat, upright, heavy bloomer with pink-red buds opening to a semi-double white with little to no fruit



Prunus Columnar Sargent Rancho

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Nelson Henderson



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Join us on August 24th for our Annual Open House.

Tours & snacks available all day.

See our equipment display, growing fields, propagation, chemical storage facility and much more.

Our traditional baked salmon and BBQ chicken dinner begins at 5:30 PM

Live entertainment, raffle prizes, NW wines and beer throughout the evening.

We hope to see you here!



Conservation Corner



A Sweet New Endeavor

By Mike Anderson

The Propagation Department has over 7 acres of orchard devoted to producing seed for 50+ different species of seed grown items. These include many species of Acer, Quercus, Tilia, Amelanchier and Prunus which require pollination by wind or insects. Over the last few years we have established some nesting areas for Orchard Mason bees, with some success. In 2011 we have also added honey bees as another management tool to maximize our seed yields.

As we started to learn about keeping honey bees, we found it is much like running a nursery. It is a blend of art and science, along with a lot of room for opinion. We also realized you may never stop learning about these amazing creatures! Here are a few facts about honey bees: The worker bees are all underdeveloped females and do all the work of the colony. They may live as little as 28-35 days in the summer, much longer over the winter. Worker bees perform a series of tasks that follow a typical pattern. Their first 20 days of life are spent within the hive; cleaning cells, nursing brood, building comb and receiving pollen and nectar. The last days of their lives are spent foraging for nectar and pollen.

Male bees are called drones. Their only job in life is to mate with a queen, following which they die. They also cannot sting. Drones are produced when the queen lays an unfertilized egg. The queen's primary responsibility is to lay eggs. A newly hatched queen will embark on a mating flight, where she will mate with numerous drones. This will supply her with a lifetime supply of sperm for the 1500 to 2000 eggs she may lay a day at her peak. She may live as long as five years!

A bee hive can have from 2,000 to 60,000 individual bees. In April we purchased a starter kit of bee hive components and a 3 lb. package of honey bees from a local supplier. Our carpenter Carlos Trejo then built two more additional hives, for which we purchased small starter units called nucleus hives, or nuc's. Each hive box contains 10 removable frames with wax coated plastic foundation, upon which the bees will build comb, within which they will rear brood and store honey and pollen.

We have successfully installed Italian honey bees in all three hives. Early season tasks have included supplemental feeding and monitoring for successful egg laying on the part of the queens. As the season rolls on we will add additional boxes (honey supers) to the hive, which will allow us to enjoy a sweet reward in the fall.



Malus Marilee

Syringa Snowcap- 15-20' tall and 10-12' wide – More compact than Ivory Silk with very uniform branching, large white spikes and thick leaves

When looking for something a little taller one may consider the following:

Acer Bowhall- 40-50' tall and 15-20' wide – An old favorite and one of the best pyramidal cultivars with nice green summer foliage and scarlet-red fall color

Acer Karpick - 35-40' tall and 15-20' wide – Excellent street tree with distinct red twigs and green foliage with variations of fall color ranging from yellows to reds

Carpinus betulus Fastigiata- 30-40' tall and 15-20' wide - Effective screen or street tree that is very columnar when young becoming pyramidal with age

Carpinus betulus Frans Fontaine- 30-35' tall and 10-12' wide – European selection that is more columnar than other varieties and does not tend to broaden with age

Liquidambar Slender Silhouette- 50-60' tall and 6-8' wide – Fast growing, very narrow, upright form with minimal seeds and a yellow fall color with burgundy hues

Liriodendron Arnold- 50-60' tall and 15-20' wide – Upright grower with bright green foliage that turns a golden yellow in fall

Populus nigra Theves- 50-60' tall and 10-15' wide – Fast growing and dense tree, commonly used for windbreaks, that lives longer and tends to be more resistant to canker than Lombardy,

Quercus Kindred Spirit- 40-45' tall and 6-10' wide – Very tight upright form, more narrow than Regal Prince with glossy green foliage and excellent resistance to powdery mildew

Quercus Regal Prince- 45-50' tall and 15-20' wide – An English and Swamp White hybrid with a very narrow, oval habit that is disease resistant and tolerant of a wide range of soil types

Zelkova Musashino- 45-50' tall and 15-20' wide – Vigorous grower with upright, vase-shaped habit that is pest resistant and adaptable to most soils

This is just a small sampling of the columnar or fastigate trees available. So whether you are looking for an effective screen or to create a dramatic impact in a landscape with limited space, these skinny giants can help achieve the desired result.

Populus tremula Erecta- 25-30' tall and 10-15' wide – Seedless with dense vertical branching, dark green leaves with a grey underside and a golden-red fall color

Prunus Okame- 20-25' tall and 10-15' wide – Flowers at a young age with a long lasting, early spring show of bright pink blooms

Prunus Columnar Sargent Rancho- 20-30' tall and 8-10' wide - Narrow and vase shape with deep pink clusters of blooms and a great, shiny green foliage throughout the summer

Pyrus Cleveland Select- 25-30' tall and 15-20' wide – Upright, pyramidal form with abundant white flowers in spring and hues of purple, red and orange in the fall

Syringa Ivory Pillar- 20-25' tall and 10-15' wide – Pyramidal in form but more upright than other reticulatas with large white spikes of blooms and dark green foliage



Liquidambar Slender Silhouette

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Lime time?

by Allan Elliott

As discussed in previous articles, each plant is not only unique in its appearance, but also its growing requirements. Sometimes it's a complicated combination of issues, while with others it boils down to one thing that makes a plant flourish. With the Ginkgo, it's all about soil pH. This beautiful tree will establish under a variety of soil conditions, but tends to simply exist when soil pH is acidic. A simple pH test of your field soil or planting mix will provide information to work from. If soil pH is below 6.0 an adjustment may be necessary. The best approach is to adjust the pH pre-plant by adding lime to that part of the field where Ginkgo will be planted or to lime enough potting mix to cover the Ginkgo planting. Post-plant adjustments can and should be made as well, to adjust and maintain a pH in the range of 6.5-7.0.

Performing a simple pH test annually will help you determine liming requirements to maintain a neutral pH.

Materials available to the grower include calcium carbonate lime and prilled lime. The use of fertilizers such as calcium nitrate 15.5-0-0 and calcium ammonium nitrate or CAN-27 will assist in maintaining a pH while providing nutrition to the plant. Note that Ginkgo are heavy feeders.

These practices have enabled Carlton Plants to successfully produce Ginkgo over the past 20 plus years.

We hope they are helpful to you!



Ginkgo Princeton Sentry

Did you know this?



The crabapple is actually the wild apple, probably much like the first apples known to man and the source of domestic apples grown today. It is thought that the word "crab" designates a small, sour, unpleasant tasting apple and that it may have derived from an old Swedish or Norse word meaning "fruit of the wild apple tree".

Luckily, today's crabapples are an attractive tree in our gardens and landscapes, and available on our *SproutFree*® rootstock for a nice low maintenance addition.