



**Our New Catalog is Out!**

Amaireni told us she thought it was quite tastefully done. Because she can't read yet, she didn't notice a couple of mistakes.

First, **Bob Van Hoef's** cell number is **612-282-3495**. We are sorry Bobby.

Then, Nevada is NV, not VN.

Some of you may notice that we have listed *Populus tremuloides* as Quacking Aspen. Why, you may wonder?

Would you believe that we were going for the laugh?

No?

Would you believe that we wanted to show our support for the hapless U of O Ducks, down on their luck yet one more year?

The truth is, several people proofed the catalog and no one, not even Robbi, our crack bookkeeper, caught it. Yes, it's true. We are human. We make mistakes. That is why we have a liberal credit policy. If for some reason you find some of our trees not up to your expectations, we want to make it right, and quickly. Just pick up the phone and call.



**Canopy Pruning of Bare Root Trees**

Pruning theory has been changing over the last several years. For most of the last century, growers were told that when they planted bare root trees, they had to adjust the "root to shoot ratio". The trees roots had been significantly root pruned during harvest, so the tree mass above the ground had to be adjusted.

Several years ago, Dr. Alex Shigo suggested that trees would make the transplant better if no pruning were done to the branches. He said that buds produced auxins which when transported down to the roots helped initiate new roots.

Obviously, the more new roots, the faster the tree would re-establish itself.

In the early nineties I decided to try Dr. Shigo's advice. That year I didn't prune any of the 25,000 trees we planted. I kept a very close eye on their development

I think I expected weak performance from the trees during the early part of the season. All the trees leafed out and began growing very nicely. About the middle of June, I noticed that the Malus, Prunus and Pyrus were looking sad. I immediately pruned the tops back and within three weeks they

were pushing hard.

I also notice that a dieback problem I had always had with Liriodendron ceased to exist.

The following winter I pruned the trees, beginning the process of building a canopy. I never saw an adverse effect as the trees grew to maturity.

So my advice would be to prune the flowering trees back fairly hard at planting time. Shade tree whips can be pruned to force branching at the preferred height at this time. You can wait until the following winter to prune shade trees.

Dave J.

**Staff Introductions  
Jesus Ochoa—Inventory Manager**



Inventory is one of the most difficult tasks in a bare root nursery. The goal is to estimate how many and what size of each variety of tree we will have at the harvest time.

Jesus Ochoa has worked in inventory for 8 years and has been manager for 3 years.

During the winter, Jesus is in

charge of grading our trees. He makes sure that Robinson's tree grade is consistent and generous.

Jesus is originally from Colima, Mexico. He met and married his wife here in Oregon. He spends his spare time visiting with family.