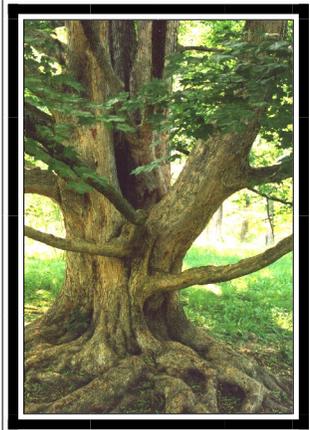


Tree of the Month



**Acer miyabei 'Morton'
'State Street' Maple**

Acer miyabei is a native of Japan. It is hardy to Zone 4. This specimen from the Morton Arboretum near Chicago is perhaps 50' tall and 35' wide. It's shape is an upright oval. The moderate sized leaves are 5 lobed, thick and medium green. Fall color is said to be a pale golden yellow. It produces dense shade. This tree is a possible replacement for *Acer platanoides*.

A. miyabei prefers a moist, well drained, loamy soil which is slightly acidic, and is said to have moderate drought resistance. There are no particular disease or insect problems. It will survive in tough urban conditions.

The bark of the young tree is beautifully striated white on a dark background, so it should be a good seller in retail nurseries.

Nursery Notes



Sunscald

Few things are more discouraging than to be walking through a field of 2" caliper trees that you have worked hard to produce and notice the tell-tale sign of sunscald at the base of your trees.

The sign is a discoloration or dried-out look to the bark, usually on the southwest side of the tree. On closer inspection you will find that the cambium tissue below this discolored bark is dead. New callus may already be forming at the edges of the effected area, but the tree is essentially not saleable.

There are a couple of ways this damage occurs. The first is during winter, on clear, cold days. During the day, the south side of the trunk

heats up to perhaps 15 degrees warmer than the rest of the tree. As the sun goes down, that temperature decreases quickly and the cambial tissue is damaged.

Another way sunscald occurs is when the sun beats down on a water stressed tree. Trees are most susceptible just after transplanting, but stress damage can also happen when a tree used to irrigation, is no longer watered.

I have also seen sunscald damage when the sun is reflected off of standing water, snow and concrete sidewalks and buildings.

Sunscald can be prevented by protecting the truck. There are paper products on the market which can be wrapped around

the trunk. There are also plastic trunk protectors. These plastic devices may be better because they allow for air circulation. It is also helpful to plant the notch of the graft or bud union facing to the north.

The trunk can be painted, but with varied results.

Most susceptible to sunscald are trees with thin bark, like *Acer palmatum*, *Stewartia* and *Styrax*. In Oregon I have also seen sunscald on *Acer*, *Fagus*, *Liriodendron*, *Prunus*, *Platanus*, *Carpinus*, *Tilia*, *Cercidiphyllum*, *Crataegus*, and *Quercus*.

The farther north you go, and the more severe the weather, the more serious a problem sunscald becomes.

Down At The Pond

We had special visitors this week: a flock of Cedar Waxwing. About 30 of these happy guys and gals settled in around our pond. They spend most of their time trying to catch flying insects. Compared to the Tree Swallows in the same area, they are a little clumsy, but fun to watch. We also have Goldfinch snacking on plant seed.

