

October 2005

Hi,

We have been producing this newsletter now for several months. The feedback we have received has been mostly positive. But we may have occasionally ruffled a few feathers, such as when we suggested not pruning newly planted bare root shade trees. That's fine. We all know that there is no "one way" to grow plants. Just look at propagation of *Acer palmatum* cultivars.

We do encourage your comments. If we get something wrong, we would like to know. Likewise if we get something right. Any suggestions you have for further topics would be appreciated. We recently received one such suggestion from Joe C. who wrote: "Very informative newsletter. I suggest the next focus be on the dangers of pruning in the nude. I'm sure you have some experience...."

Like I said, we encourage all of you to send your comments and suggestions. That is, all of you except Joe.

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Cornus alternifolia



Nursery Notes

Scaffolding Branches

We all know how effective the arborists have been in promoting proper planting depth. We as growers perhaps have been a little lax in the past, but I'm sure we are on the right page now.

There is another area of concern for specimen tree growers that the arborists may be bringing up in the future: scaffolding branch placement.

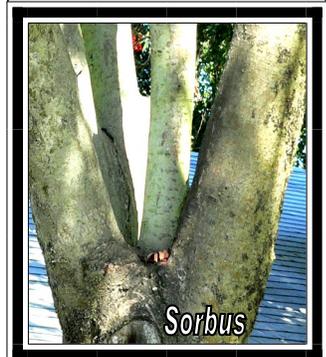
The arborists texts I have read suggest that the main scaffolding branches on large shade trees should be between 18" and 24" apart. As specimen tree growers, we know that a 2" caliper tree with this branching scheme is not a tree an architect will approve. In fact, it will look pretty awful.

The arborists are rightly concerned that scaffolding branches too close together can rob the central leader of its dominance. Some genera are worse than others, but most trees can develop this problem if not caught early on.

In a perfect world, growers should be able to grow a tree suitable to the architect, and then as the tree matures, the arborist could modify the tree to a more structurally sound state. All the while the tree would remain aesthetically pleasing.

But we all know that in the real world, trees planted in parking lots or on streets rarely if ever receive any attention unless they are growing into power lines or block a business sign.

What is the solution to this dilemma? It seems to me that arborists could drum up more business by convincing tree owners that their trees need periodic visits by a knowledgeable arborist. Or they could educate architects as to the most suitable structure for large shade trees. The grower can grow to whichever specifications are required. Just don't holler at the nurseryman for growing the tree the market demands.



Sorbus

Re-allocation Blues

We are currently in the process of entering our final field estimations. This re-entering and re-allocation can sometimes bring havoc to the originally confirmed order. However, these estimations will be more consistent with what will be harvested this winter.

You will be receiving your newly revised confirmation next week. Please look it over to see what changes might have occurred. Conveniently, our current availability will be arriving along with your new confirmation. We appreciate your consideration and patience during this process.

If you have any questions please contact your sales representative or call us directly at the office.

Cynda

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6 AM—4:30 PM Pacific Time