



Digging is well under way. Our crew will be pulling stakes, digging, hauling, gradeing, bundling, and storing more than 600,000 trees and 50,000 shrubs. This operation will require a crew of nearly 100. The weather will be cold and wet. The mud makes walking difficult much less working. The trees will be heavy. The hours will be long.

None of what we do here would be possible without a quality work force. We are fortunate to have a group of people who cheerfully take on the challenge.

When wandering our fields and warehouses you frequently hear someone break out into song. When passing by you invariably get a friendly wave or a greeting. Our crew is part of the reason Robinson Nursery is a pretty darn pleasant place to work. We are indeed blessed.



Smith Rocks is a little piece of heaven located near Redmond, Oregon. On the right is the remains of a volcanic ash deposit. On the left, a lava flow. The Crooked River cut a swath between them. This is a favorite haunt of rock climbers and rattlesnakes.

Root of the Problem

We would like to talk a little this month about the problems associated with container grown trees..

While there are several ways for a tree to develop stem girdling roots, the most common is for a tree to be grown in a container too long.

A containerized tree with encircling roots stands a good chance of developing one or both of two problems: poor anchorage because roots that develop outward from the trunk do not have a strong attachment to the root collar; and encircling roots may eventually compress the stem, causing stress and tree decline.

In either case it may take 10 or 20 years for the tree to begin to show symp-

toms. The grower of that tree can probably never be traced, may not even be in business anymore. But isn't the grower responsible if his practices cause a problem that eventually leads to tree failure? Think about that when you watch kids playing under a large leaning tree.

So, how can we insure that our trees have a sound root system? We have seen malformed roots in 32 cell plugs, 2 1/2", 4" and larger pots, so we must be vigilant from the beginning. Number one, don't grow a plant in a pot too long. As soon as the roots start hitting the container sidewall, start thinking about potting it up to a larger size. Whenever moving a plant to a larger pot, root prune.

When planting a potted plant in the field, remove the media, inspect the roots, and spread them out over a mound in the planting hole.

Copper treated pots solve the problem but are not readily available. Air pruning pots are new to the market. They are expensive, but effective. A treated bag in a pot may be a solution. Or you can buy bare root liners. You will know exactly what the roots look like. And we still have a few for sale.

Tree growers need to be mindful that their products will be around for a very long time. Making sure that our trees have a sound root system will help insure a long lived, problem free tree.

Amelanchier Sale

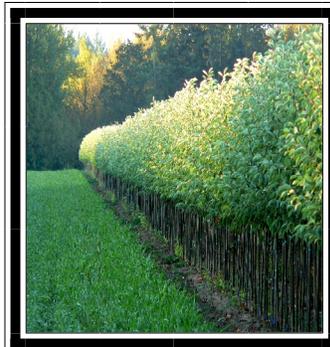
Amelanchier grandiflora
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