

January 2006

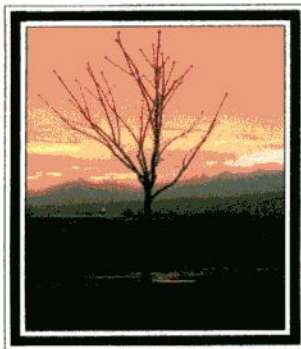
Spraying chemicals is a drag. For disease prone crabapples there is no choice. You have to start at bud break and continue every 10-14 days until the weather dries up. In Oregon, that can be well into June.

If you've got to spray, you want to use the most effective chemicals available. Dennis Heins of Heins Nursery in Woodbury, MN tell us he alternates Specto 90, Compass and Dacranyl for excellent Scab control. Steve Dukes at EF Nursery in Forest Grove, OR covers crabs with two copper sprays in the dormant season, then alternates Syllit, Eagle 20EW and Cygnus.

Most Scab approved chemicals are also registered for Rust and Powdery Mildew, so you're killing three birds with one stone.

Oregon State University has an excellent disease control web site with information on Scab and other diseases. Find it at:

[www.plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu](http://www.plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu)



We started the winter digging so fast  
Harvest went well, we were having a blast  
Christmas came through with a frosty chill  
Then it rained and it rained till the rivers did fill  
The mud is now inching up to our knees  
The rain is still coming down through the trees  
The digger looks like it's mired in the muck  
I'm beginning to think we've run out of luck  
We want to be done and get on with shipping  
If only the sky would clear up and stop dripping

## Nursery Notes



## Confounding Crabapple Conundrum

Most growers have seen their Crabapple sales fade away over the last several years. Oldtimers say this is just the downside of a repeating cycle. But this downside seems to be stretching out quite a long time.

What could make the buyers turn away from such a strong performer: magnificent bloom, drought tolerance, hardiness, urban toughness, fall color? The problems of Crabs must be pretty bad to outweigh these attributes.

Unfortunately, we all know the answer: Apple Scab, Cedar Rust, Powdery Mildew and Fire Blight. We all fight them. How about Crown Rot and Crown Gall and suckering?

A good descriptive word for apple disease is "variable." These diseases vary from area to area, variety to variety and season to season. In dry spring areas, Scab may not be a problem but Fire Blight can be devastating. Here in the Willamette Valley, Fire Blight is unknown, but scab can be serious. Powdery Mildew, once seldom seen, seems to be increasing.

As growers, we are forced to spray. We have a long list of effective chemicals available. (See sidebar). We know how to grow a clean tree, and that makes us feel great. But that doesn't help our customers next year. We think this is where the sales resistance is coming from. People can't afford to buy trees that are going

to develop problems.

One solution is to grow varieties which are naturally resistant to disease in your sales area. Another is to put trees on non-suckering rootstock. If the retailer or landscaper can feel sure he is planting a tree that won't be a problem for his customer, crab sales should go up.

We are enclosing a crabapple questionnaire. We would like to know which crab varieties do best in each region of the country. Knowing this may help us match the best trees for each area. Your participation would be appreciated. There is ample room for your comments and suggestions. We promise to share what we learn.

## Crabapple Sale

### Winter Sale

All Malus Varieties

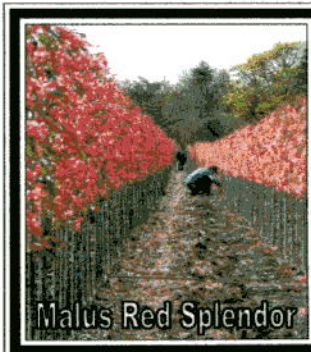
6' Branched

Regularly \$12.70

Now only \$8.50



Malus Red Jewel



Malus Red Splendor

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