

February 2006

This month the U.S. Senate takes up Immigration Reform. Obviously, any system that results in human trafficking and people dying of thirst in the deserts of the Southwest is in need of fixing. Unfortunately, there are powerful people in this country like Senator Sessions (R-AL) who think that Americans "oppose amnesty, guest worker programs and desire a reduction of legal immigration."

This group would have an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants streaming back across the border. They disregard the economic chaos that will devastate several industries, including the nursery and landscape industries.

The McCain-Kennedy bill looks to be a workable solution to security, illegal immigration and economic stability. But even if it has a chance in the Senate, it still must pass the House.

Our associations are hard at work, but what is needed is a groundswell of concern and support. Legislators need to get thousands of emails and faxes from folks like you. It's the squeaky wheel that get greased. You as individuals and nurserymen need to make your voices heard.



# Nursery News

## Blesses With a Little Rain

What a winter. In the last 25 days we have received 18.75" of rain, 325% of normal. The soil has been saturated but fortunately there has been only minor flooding. This week our crews are finishing harvest, and it's been a long, hard pull. We're talking mud. It is slippery and wants to pull your boot off at every step. The mud also clings to the roots making the trees heavier. Even with rain gear you are wet head to toe. At least it hasn't been cold.

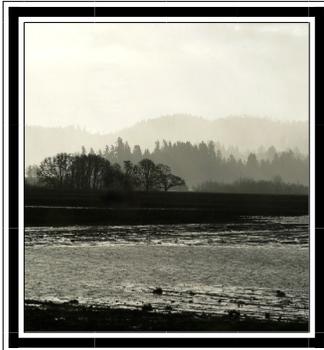


With digging done, we are starting to think about shipping. This year fuel costs will probably be higher than last year, which was higher than the year before. No one likes paying these higher prices but what other choice do we have.

For convenience, most of our customers have us arrange shipping. We are glad to do this, and do not charge for this service. Any customer is free to make his own shipping arrangements. One little word of advice though. When you get quotes from trucking companies, make sure the price you are quoted is the

total price for delivery to your site. We heard last year that some nurseries were receiving quotes only to find out later that, SURPRISE, a 10% or 15% fuel surcharge had been added. The price we quote you is the entire cost of delivery.

In preparation for planting, you may want to look at the last page of our catalog entitled Care of Bare Root Trees. The subjects covered here should help you start your liner out right. Starting out right is usually better than starting out wrong.



## On the Wrong Side of the Fence



This young animal is a Black Tail Deer, or Brush Monkey. They are not much bigger than a rabbit, but they sure can eat. We see a lot of them in the spring and summer when our trees are pushing tender, tasty new shoots. Our first thought was too clean them out, make them disappear, but we

have controlled our instincts and decided to attempt to control the damage. In the last two years, we have erected three miles of deer fence. Also, unused fields outside the fence have been planted to corn, hoping that the deer prefer corn to trees. So far our efforts seem to have paid off.