

The U.S. Senate has taken 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 Conference Committee.

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

Crabapple Survey Results

We want to thank all who took the time to fill out our informal Crabapple survey. We had two goals for the survey. We wanted to know which varieties did best in the different areas of the country, and we wanted to hear your ideas about crabs in general. We admit that this is a very unscientific survey.

One thing that surprised us was that very often, four growers in a region reported four different results for the same variety. Would that be due to varying microclimates, different spray programs or maybe just different criteria from each grower? Hard to say. We were able to draw some very broad generalizations from the data we received.

In general, resistant varieties are resistant in all areas. They are: Adams, Adirondack, Candymint, Cardinal,

Coralburst, Donald Wyman, Firebird, Golden Raindrops, Harvest Gold, Lollipop, *Malus sargentii*, *Malus sargentii* Tina, Prairifire, Purple Rain, Red Jewel, Red Jade and Spring Snow. Again, some growers had trouble with some of these.

In general, the varieties which were in demand or at least holding their own were: Adirondack, Candymint, Coralburst, Donald Wyman, Firebird, Lollipop, *Malus sargentii*, *Malus sargentii* Tina, Prairifire and Purple Rain.

The general opinion is that the big trees with big fruit and weepers were out. Small trees with bright red persistent fruit were in. The dwarf trees grafted on standards were popular.

Suckering rootstocks were hated by all. Several of you suggested growing clump

crabs on their own roots. We are pursuing this at Robinson Nursery.

Mike Yenne at Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls made a great comment. “.....We should stop calling them Crabs because of the bad connotations. We should be calling them Ornamental Apples or Flowering Apples.”

A rose by any other name is still a rose, but how would it sell if it were named “skunk cabbage?”



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 to start shooting, 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.