

June 2006

SHOES

We thought that a little humorous ridicule would make the green rubber cogs disappear. On the contrary, our co-worker now says we will be looking at them for a very, very long time. And now she has support:

“Nice Shoes!! I love them. I could send you a picture of mine. They look like tennis shoes but they are white (were white), now kind of tan, with Hot Orange laces. But they go on just like clogs. I love them. Yours look very broke in. It’s hard to get them to this level of comfort.

My mother-in-law had a pair that she duct taped for years before her son (my husband) bought her a new pair and took the old ones to the dump. He thought the duct tape may have gone too far in order to preserve comfort. Have a great day. By the way, how did they get them away from you long enough to get a picture?”

Julie Bethel,
Great Northern Nursery
Park Rapids, MN



They seem not to realize the grief they cause. Perhaps those of us who are bothered by these foul shoes need to form a support group: VAA, Visually Abused Anonymous



Technical Innovation



After using a hand crank top-link on their planter for several years, Tom Epler and his manager, Steve Dukes of E. F. Nursery in Forest Grove, OR, got the idea to use an hydraulic cylinder. It’s worked great. They can change the height of their planter on the run.



Another innovation they have added are adjustable row markers on both sides of the planter. These are also hydraulically operated. No more marking out rows with stakes.

Several years ago, they refitted their planter with a 24” shoe so that they didn’t have to root prune their liners so much. Results: much less shock from transplanting. Next year they plan to have a much smaller exchangeable shoe for those small rooted plants.

Hauling B&B trees out of the field has always been a challenge. I have seen people use several methods.

E. F. Nursery has always used a carrier attached to the three-point hitch of a tractor. It’s not perfect by any means. In wet weather, the rows get rutted after several passes by the tractor. There is always the

chance of “tractor blight” on the remaining trees. But so far, I have seen no better method for hauling trees. The carrier can haul eight 28” root balls, or six 32” root balls per trip.



Have any of you out there modified a hay hauler with nursery jaws on a boom and flotation tires, narrow enough to slide down a 12 foot row, with a 40 tree capacity and a top speed of 59 mph? Oh yeah, also with an enclosed cab with heat and soothing music?

If so, or if you have any new methods or equipment innovations, and would like to share them, email pictures and explanations to dave@robinsonnursery.com



Aesculus x carnea ‘Briotii’

A great midsized tree for the landscape. A broadly rounded tree growing to 30’. A real eye catcher in the spring when it puts on a spectacular show of red flowers.

