

January 2007

Happy New Year from Robinson Nursery. As I write this on Dec. 18th, the temperature is 28°F. The whole crew is in the warehouse grading and processing. We are 2/3's of the way finished with digging and are on track to have everything ready to ship by Feb. 1st.

We are always trying to improve the quality of our product, and I think you will see that effort in the consistency of our trees this spring. One of our main goals for this decade is to increase the quality of the root systems on our plants. Our propagation department is working on several techniques. One is the hormone process for Oak featured in this newsletter. Another breakthrough is the way we are rooting our *Acer rubrum* varieties. In the past, we have used suckers for cutting material. This cutting roots quickly, but only around the basal cut. Last year, we found that by using the lower branches of 1 year whips, we could achieve rooting along the entire 3" of hormone dipped stem. We believe these plants will transplant better, be more vigorous and develop into a strongly rooted mature tree. As you know, when you start with a great liner, the quality product you want will be easier to grow.

We want to thank you again for allowing Robinson Nursery to be your supplier of bare root plants.

Rick



Tree Notes

Oak Root Update

Last spring we wrote about an experiment we were conducting on our Oaks. The acorns are stratified until the root radical emerges. At that time the radicals are dipped in hormone.

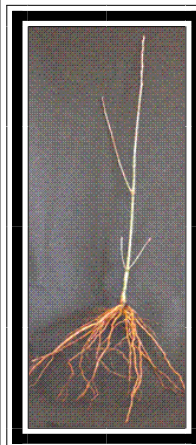


Then the acorn is hand planted and grown in beds for a season.



The product that emerged was rather strik-

ing compared to the Oak "carrot roots" we have been accustomed to. All of the seedlings had a very fibrous root system



as shown here. The next step was to see how these seedlings transplanted. Our first test plots of Red and Burr Oak did very well. As you can see from the picture (above right), the root system of a one year whip is quite impressive.

We believe that this new root system will alleviate most of the transplanting

problems that have plagued Oaks in the past.



We are continuing our tests and hope to make these Oaks available in limited quantities in spring of 2008 and possibly have complete hormone treated Oak production by 2010.

The nursery business forces growers to learn the art of patience. You can sometimes fool Mother Nature, but it's useless to try to rush her.

Winter Sale



Amelanchier 'Rainbow Pillar'

Zone 4, upright multi-stem to 20', bright orange/red fall color **now 50% off.**

What a deal! We continue to offer quality at a reasonable price.

