



Welcome to our March newsletter. We are currently about 40% shipped. In the field we are top grafting, pruning and staking. Our storage of bare root material begins in late October. As varieties are dug they are brought into the warehouse where they are graded by size and quantity. The plants are heeled into Douglas fir sawdust after grading. Douglas fir is the preferred mulch material as it does not readily break down. Heeled in plants are then irrigated to get the air pockets out and to keep the roots moist. Mid December we put into cold storage the varieties that break dormancy early. We keep our coolers at 36 degrees. Root systems are hand watered as needed and a fog system keeps the humidity correct. This time of year the majority of plants are in the cooler. We have had great success shipping dormant plants through mid May.

Have a great Spring!



**Tree Notes**



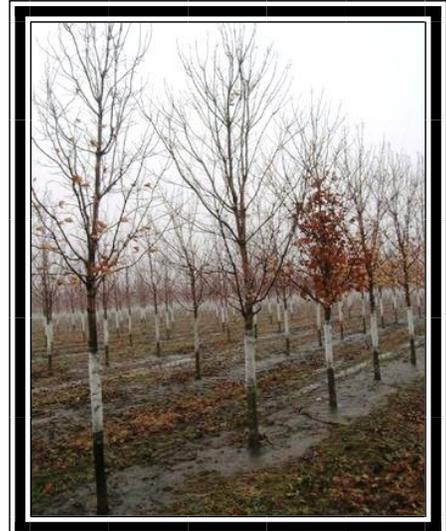
**Big Trees & Big Fish**

I recently spent a week with Roger Purcell from Wandell's Nursery in Urbana, Illinois. Roger grows larger caliper shade trees for the Midwest Market. He shared with me how he handles his bare root liners when he receives them and I would like to pass it along.

First his crew counts and grades the bare root material as it comes off the truck. Plants are then stacked on racks by variety in his cooler. The cooler is kept at 34 degrees. It is important to keep an eye on plants when they are in cold storage. Roger checks his plants every 4 to 5 hours. He makes sure the plants do not dry out and no fungus or mold is present. He likes to wait until soil temperatures hit the upper 40s before planting. Right before the plants go in the ground the roots are pruned, they remove approximately 20% of the root. He stresses a fresh cut on every root to initiate new root growth. Plants are top pruned after they are planted and some of the more difficult varieties are sweated. Roger leaves these in a dark warm building, keeping them wet until new buds begin to swell.

One other bit of wisdom he shared, *never* plant a Hawthorne on a sunny day.

Rick



Roger's Big Sugar Maples



Roger's Big Fish

Roger's Rooster Fish (above)

Dorado (upper right)

Sailfish caught on a fly (lower right)

