

September 2011



Morning Fields

Grafted Witch Hazel

This is a wild grown tree but it serves as an example of what can happen when an included bark crotch is allowed to grow.



At some point, wind, snow or ice, or just the weight of the limb, will stress the junction so much that it will fail.

This tree was in a pasture, so no harm was done.

Not all such trees are so remote from human activity.

Narrow crotches can be easily dealt with in the nursery if caught early on. They can be removed usually without any effect on the tree.

We are very pleased with our Hamamelis tree form grown in root pruning containers. They have responded nicely to container production, making a finished liner earlier than we had projected. We offer 'Arnold's Promise' (pictured right), 'Jelena', 'Diane' and 'Pallida' (pictured below).

By the way, the Witch in Witch Hazel refers to the flexibility of the stems. And although it may be used as a divining rod, it has nothing to do with the dark side.

Next year all grafted Hamamelis will be on Parrotia rootstock.



The 2011 Far West Show is now history. Though smaller than in the past, it seems now to be more of a 'growers' show. A lot of the fluff and foo-foo booths have disappeared. Given the times, we feel it was well attended.

The aisles seemed busy, there were lots of people asking questions and the time seemed to go by quickly.

The general mood of the attendees seemed to be cautiously optimistic.

Folks weren't ready to pull out their wallets yet, but they seemed to think that the worst is over, and better times lie ahead. There were few pleasant words for the banks, but then there seldom are.

Here's to better days