



The flowering crabapple has been used extensively in almost every type of landscape setting imaginable. With the many different varieties, sizes and growth characteristics to choose from, there is most assuredly a crabapple available for almost any landscape situation.

In the past, many of crabapple varieties had serious flaws. However, in recent years there have been many new cultivars introduced to the nursery trade that are much more disease-resistant than many of their predecessors. Fireblight, cedar apple rust, scab and mildew are no longer problematic in many of the newer cultivars.

Then why aren't more crabapples being planted? One of the main headaches that both nurseries (growers) and the end consumers experience is the continual battle keeping the many suckers cut off that crabapples can and do produce.

There has not been a reliable rootstock available that would reduce or control the suckering in crabapples. Such a rootstock would not only enable the grower to reduce their labor, but it would also be a major benefit and selling tool to the homeowner and other users such as municipalities.

Carlton Plants believes it has found the solution to this age-old problem: SproutFree® Malus rootstock. SproutFree® will virtually eliminate rootstock suckering, providing trees are properly planted in the landscape. This Zone 3 rootstock has been evaluated, tested and grown throughout the United States and Canada for more than fifteen years. SproutFree® is vigorous, produces good caliper and has well anchored roots.

The demand for SproutFree® rootstock has been strong and Carlton Plants will have all crabapple production available on SproutFree® rootstock for the 2010-2011 season. We feel that SproutFree® has the ability to revive a flowering crabapple market that has been struggling for quite some time.



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# Plantline



April 2010

A Newsletter from Carlton Plants LLC

## Little Twist® Flowering Cherry



Carlton Plants is very excited about this new variety. We have been trialing and growing the Little Twist® for years and find it to be an excellent flowering cherry and very desirable for any landscape. Good quantities are available this year. Following is a description of just what this Little Twist® is all about:

- Winner of the Best Tree/Conifer 2009 Farwest New Varieties Showcase.
- Little Twist® Flowering Cherry is coming also in shrub form.
- A very hardy Zone 5.
- Native to Japan, Prunus incisa (Fuji Cherry) is a selection with stems and shoots that twist and zigzag offering a unique form that supports profuse, tightly clustered white bell-shaped flowers with pink centers.
- A tree creating all season interest with blooms in early spring, green unique small leaves in summer, a rainbow of fall color ranging from bright orange to a deep maroon red and zigzag and twisting branching in winter.
- Little Twist® is perfect for small spaces and as a patio tree.
- The slow grower tops out at a height and spread of 8 feet.
- Grafted on a 3 to 4 foot standard.
- Virus Certified
- Prefers full sun to part shade and is adaptable to various soil types.
- Little Twist® is a trademark of Carlton Plants LLC.

"Hope is nurtured just by being in the company of trees and plants and flowers, by witnessing the relentless strength and energy of growing things."  
- author  
Emile Barnes

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### Shipping Through May.....

Many of you experienced frigid temperatures and mounting snowdrifts this past winter, all the while anxious to greet customers and open fields with better spring weather.

We can assure you that your bareroot plants are being carefully maintained in our humidified cold storage facilities. If sales should exceed your expectations and inventories run low, we will have a good assortment of dormant stock available for shipment through the month of May.

# A Thank You to Our Customers

All of us at Carlton Plants extend our appreciation and gratitude to you, our customers, for your continuing business.

The fact that you choose Carlton Plants as a supplier means everything to us. Our resolve and dedication to supplying you with the highest level of consistent quality and service remain as strong as always. Exceeding your expectations and providing real value are our goals.

We wish you success in the months ahead and we look forward to working with you again to supply your needs for the upcoming 2011 season.

Sincerely,

Everyone at Carlton Plants



## Conservation Corner

- by Catie Anderson

### The Buzz.....



**H**oneybees are often thought of as the best or only beneficial pollinating bee. But did you know there are more than 3500 species of solitary bees in North America? Solitary bees, also known as "native" or "pollen bees" are efficient pollinators and have several advantages over honeybees. Many are active in early spring before honeybee colonies reach large sizes. Native bees fly rapidly so they can pollinate more plants than honeybees. Unlike honeybees, the males also pollinate the crops. Best of all, they are usually gentle and have only a mild sting.

Pollen bees are in decline due to pesticide use and habitat destruction, but are unaffected by mites, which are instrumental in reducing honeybee populations.

Bumble, digger and sweat bees make up the bulk of pollen bees and the success of their future can use our help. Farmers can help preserve and increase native pollinator populations by providing nesting habitats, reduce the use of harmful pesticides and furnish wild forage. Unattended ground such as a hedgerow is good habitat for many types of bees.

Ground nesting bees require an undisturbed sunny spot. Wood and stem nesting bees use branch sections and hollow reeds or nesting blocks made out of untreated wood. Mason bees require a source of water and mud.

Inexpensive nest boxes can be purchased or constructed out of 3/8" diameter straws packed into a can or PVC pipe and then mounted to a post, tree trunk or the side of a building. They should receive at least morning sun and be protected from wind, precipitation and pests such as woodpeckers. Nesting blocks can also be made out of untreated 4 x 4's with 3/8" diameter holes drill 4-6 inches deep. Or simply drill holes in dead tree trunks.

Two good websites for finding out more information are 1) knoxcellars.com (specifically for mason bees) and 2) xerces.org. The internet is full of interesting and useful information about taking care of our valuable pollinators!

# Success is a Thousand Details

- by Allan Elliott

**S**pring arrived early on the West Coast. Shipments of bareroot plants have picked up, thus planting can't be far behind. Although this will vary by region and customer, it's a primary ritual of spring for most nurseries. Beyond this point, the planting process varies with each operation as may transplanting results.

As with many things in life, some plants present greater challenges for success than others. Inherent traits will present obstacles for the grower to overcome. At Carlton Plants, experience, observation and trial and error have provided insight into the tougher items and the details that can impact them.

The usual list of suspects includes: Betula, Celtis, Cornus kousa, Corylus colurna, Crataegus, Koelreuteria, Liriodendron, Parrotia and Hamamelis standards, Quercus varieties, and Salix top grafts.

Knowing that these items present challenges, we have developed special handling protocols. These are critical details that can boost transplant success and growth response. Starch testing, specific dig times, chemical applications, modified storage techniques, root packing, undercutting and temperature and humidity control all play a role.

The process can't end however, when the plants leave our dock. There are a number of techniques that the grower can apply to improve results.

In general terms, don't allow plants to dry out upon receiving and prior to planting. Do protect from temperature extremes both high and low. Avoid overpruning, particularly the roots. Irrigate soon after planting as this can significantly improve transplant results and subsequent growth. Refrain from over-irrigating slow to respond items, especially with drip irrigation. Some reduction of tops can be beneficial on many varieties.

There are specific guidelines for the care of certain genera as follows:

- Betula – do not prune tops or branches. Allow the plant to leaf out and establish, then shape.
- Celtis – reduce top growth, minimize root pruning and irrigate as soon as possible.



Hydrangea paniculata 'Kyushu'



Malus Zumi Calocarpa (Multi-stem Flowering Crabapple)



Hydrangea quercifolia 'Sikes Dwarf'



Malus Show Time™ (Flowering Crabapple)



Show Time™ Photos compliments of Lake County New Plants

continued from pg. 3

- Cornus kousa – no pruning, sweat to break buds prior to planting, irrigate as soon as possible but don't over-irrigate afterward.
- Corylus colurna – no initial pruning and do not allow to dehydrate (sun & wind) during handling. Also avoid overwatering.
- Crataegus – avoid stress and dehydration, sweat if possible and irrigate.
- Koelreuteria – no root pruning and initial irrigation as soon as possible.
- Liriodendron – absolutely must trunk wrap to avoid sun scald on trunk and subsequent stress.
- Parrotia and Hamamelis standards – no pruning and don't over-water.
- Quercus varieties – reduce top growth, only light root pruning, don't stress or dehydrate and irrigate as soon as possible.
- Salix top grafts – reduce tops significantly. They will grow back rapidly once established.
- Syringa meyeri palibin – remove 20% of tops, particularly flower buds which lead to disease and dieback. Fungicide applications are also helpful.

Managing the details can have a profound impact on results. Remember, you are planting your future so make it as good as it can be.



Hamamelis 'Diane'

## New Product Listing for 2010-2011

### Trees

- Acer saccharum Commemoration® (Sugar Maple)
- Acer saccharum Fall Fiesta® (Sugar Maple)
- Acer saccharum Green Mountain® (Sugar Maple)
- Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura Tree) 'Red Fox'
- Cercis canadensis (Eastern Redbud) 'Forest Pansy' multi-stem form
- Cercis canadensis (Eastern Redbud) Lavender Twist™
- Cotinus coggygria 'Velvet Cloak' (Smoketree)
- Liriodendron tulipifera 'Arnold' (Tuliptree)
- Malus Show Time™ (Flowering Crabapple)
- Malus 'Royal Beauty' (Weeping Flowering Crabapple)
- Malus Firebird® (Multi-stem Flowering Crabapple)
- Malus Zumi Calocarpa (Multi-stem Flowering Crabapple)
- Prunus Little Twist® (Flowering Cherry)
- Sophora japonica Millstone™ (Japanese Pagoda tree)
- Taxodium distichum 'Falling Waters' (Baldcypress)

### Shrubs

- Buddleia x 'Asian Moon' (Seedless Butterfly Bush)
- Hydrangea paniculata 'Kyushu'
- Hydrangea quercifolia 'Sikes Dwarf'
- Prunus (Cherry Plum or Myrobalan Plum) Crimson Pointe® shrub form

### Rootstocks

- SproutFree® (Malus Apple)