



## Gary Eggenberger Joins Carlton Plants' Sales Team

Carlton Plants is pleased to welcome Gary Eggenberger to our sales team. His territories include Northern Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana.

Gary Eggenberger's first taste of the trade was at the age of 10 when he worked for a nursery in Minnesota. His interests grew with the industry, and as a result, he has had hands on experience in production, sales, shipping and marketing.

As an integral part of Sherman Nursery, Gary worked in the sales and shipping departments for over 26 years. As sales manager, he supervised a team covering nine territories across the United States. He also coordinated the marketing activities for the nursery, which included the oversight of catalogs, pricelists and special promotions. Gary also managed Sherman's traffic department, both incoming and out going.

His dedication and love for the nursery business are reflected in the way he relates to customers and handles business happenings. In 2003, he was named the ANLA's Wholesale Plant Sales Professional of the Year.

Gary and his wife Jeanne have been married for 37 years. They have four children: Cory, Tanner, Janee' and Parker. They also have four grandsons: Jacob (5), Matthew (3), Samuel (3) and Charlie (7 months).



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## 2009 Winter Trade Shows

WESTERN  
GREAT LAKES EXPO  
MINNESOTA GREEN EXPO 2009  
M.A.N.T.S.  
MONTANA GREEN EXPO  
INDIANA GREEN EXPO  
MID STATES HORT EXPO  
MID-AM  
IDAHO HORT. EXPO  
GREEN & GROWIN'  
C.E.N.T.S.  
PRO GREEN EXPO  
NOR CAL SPRING TRADESHOW  
GREAT PLAINS EXPO  
NEW ENGLAND GROWS

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND  
BILLINGS, MONTANA  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
BOISE, IDAHO  
GREENSBORO, N. CAROLINA  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
DENVER, COLORADO  
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA  
SIOUX FALLS, SO. DAKOTA  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 4-6  
JANUARY 5-7  
JANUARY 7-9  
JANUARY 7-9  
JANUARY 8-9  
JANUARY 12-13  
JANUARY 13-14  
JANUARY 14-16  
JANUARY 22-23  
JANUARY 15-17  
JANUARY 26-28  
JANUARY 14-16  
JANUARY 29  
FEBRUARY 2-3  
FEBRUARY 4-6

BOOTH 913  
BOOTH 617  
BOOTH 1032  
BOOTH 809  
BOOTH 59C  
BOOTH 615  
BOOTH 733  
BOOTH 429  
BOOTH 302  
BOOTH 731  
BOOTH 2058  
BOOTH 754  
BOOTH 1021  
BOOTH D6  
BOOTH 3005

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# Plantline



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A Newsletter from Carlton Plants LLC

## Handling Hard to Transplant Varieties

- by Dick Bocci

There are several varieties of plants that, after going dormant in the winter, require help in breaking bud in the spring. These include Quercus, Styrax, Crataegus, Cercis, Celtis, Ulmus, Hibiscus, Carpinus caroliniana and Betula nigra. They are naturally sensitive to extremes of any kind. Another tree requiring specific handling treatment is Liriodendron. This plant should be trunk wrapped throughout the first growing season to reduce the possibility of sun scald injury. When receiving these varieties, they should be separated out and treated with special care. The following suggestions will help increase their survivability.

**Storage:** Maintain adequate moisture during the entire handling process. If cold storage is available, maintain temperatures between 34° & 38° F and the humidity at 90%. If you do not have access to cold storage, store the plants in a protected area. Pack the roots with straw, shingle-toe or shredded paper while keeping the roots moist at all times. Plants may also be healed-in using leached sawdust, leached barkdust or coarse sand, to hold them for a short time until they can be planted. **These should also be the first varieties planted.** **Rehydration:** This process can be very beneficial and should be done prior to

transplanting. Root tips should be lightly trimmed, broken ones removed and the entire root system soaked in water for 4-6 hours. The plants' roots have already been pruned once during the digging process, so it is important that a minimum amount of

reduce their transplant success.

**Success after transplanting:** Watering after planting (potting) should be a common practice shared by all companies. Liners set out in a field operation benefit the most by irrigating with hand lines or water cannons. Drip systems are good for long term water management practices, but lack the capability of saturating the planting area to eliminate air pockets which can dry the plants' roots. Overhead irrigation should soak the soil to a depth of 12 to 18 inches, which is where most roots are after transplanting. Watering plants shortly after planting (potting) must not be overlooked under any circumstance. Plants that receive immediate attention perform remarkably, resulting in better establishment.



These are the basic factors we feel should be done with all hard to transplant varieties. There are other things that can also be done, including sweating of the plants and pruning back the side limbs This reduces the top growth to balance it with the reduced root system. Properly established plants, as well as sound nursery practices, will provide a quality plant for future sales.

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

- Barbara Winkler

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## Investing in Conservation

- by Catie Anderson

### Raptor Rap

*I'm a raptor  
I'm a bird of prey  
I use my talons  
everyday  
I eat living  
things...and that's  
ok because I am a  
raptor a bird of  
prey*

*I sit and watch,  
I never sing,  
When I spot prey,  
I take to the wing,  
Makes no  
difference if it's  
cloudy and gray,  
Because  
I'm a raptor,  
I'm a bird of prey*

*-brought to you in  
part by Raptor  
'Rap'ertoire....*



Rodents and insects are the favorite meal of hawks, owls, kites, harriers, kestrels and other raptors. Driving through the country you can often see them in open areas on electric wires or the tops of poles searching for their next victim. Studies have shown that electrical lines have greatly diminished raptors in some places because of electrocution. As adults they have no real predators other than humans and the occasional power line.

Mice and voles can be extremely devastating to nursery stock. Although a raptor cannot effectively control the high reproduction potential of voles and mice, the raptor helps to keep the population down.

In areas where predator birds are desired, but there are no large trees for perching, a raptor pole can be erected as an effective perch. There are many styles and materials that can be used to build them. On a recent trip to Europe we saw simple branches or de-limbed trees stuck in the ground. The most common however, is a tall 4 x 4 post with a cross bar for landing and perching.

This spring we built a few raptor poles to put in a wildlife hedgerow, along a pond and in the scion orchards. To make them as natural as possible and interesting to look at, we cut branches from trees and attached them to the poles. In some cases the leaves were still on the branches. We used 20' 4 x 4's for the poles, sunk them 2 feet into the ground and packed them in gravel. To attract nesting birds, our shop built several different types of bird houses and attached them to the poles.

Some of the houses were occupied this summer and besides the occasional hawks, there have been many other birds stopping to look around. We hope to catch sight of an elusive owl with a midnight snack some early morning this winter.



## The Benefits of Cover Crops



- by Allan Elliott

Most in-ground nursery operations understand the value of good soil management. The process can encompass many elements that interact to impact plant growth. The components range from soil structure, pH, organic matter content, nutrition and microbial activity to soil insects, weeds and disease.

Investigation of your soil can be accomplished through soil testing and analysis along with regular, detailed observation of field conditions. Armed with information, a management plan can be developed to address critical issues and bring the soil into a positive balance.

One of the most helpful tools at one's disposal is that of cover crops. Cover cropping is the process of growing plants for the purpose of working them back into the soil, thereby returning large quantities of organic matter to the soil. Results and benefits are numerous and varied with each type of cover crop offering specific benefits.

Combination plantings of two cover crops or sequential planting during different seasons can provide additional value.

- Roots of cover crops penetrate and fracture the soil improving permeability by air and water.
- Organic matter holds soil in place to decrease erosion and helps clay soil to fracture.
- Increased humus improves moisture and nutrient holding capabilities and availability particularly in sandy soils.
- Soil structure and overall tilth is improved resulting in less tractor work.
- Microbial activity working on decomposing organic matter can produce volatile natural organic compounds that can kill weed seeds and soil pathogens.
- Cover crops can act as a catch crop for excess nutrients by utilizing them for growth, tying them up and finally



Eye Catching field of Marigolds, a natural control of nematodes



Oriental mustard crop being worked into the soil

Cover crops continued.....

returning them to the soil in slow release form as the crop decays.

- Some cover crops release compounds from roots and leaves that inhibit insects, nematodes and weeds, while others are capable of absorbing and neutralizing undesirable residual chemicals.
- Cover crops planted for winter months shelter the soil from pounding rains causing compaction and erosion.
- Densely grown cover crops have the ability to shade out and out-compete weeds.

Common cover crops utilized at Carlton Plants include: buckwheat, hybrid Sudan grass, corn and sunflowers for warm season. Cereal rye, rye grass, wheat and poco barley are used in cool season. Some new and interesting introductions include:

- Marigolds which are being grown for their natural control of nematodes and possibly symphylan. They have the added benefit of beautiful color in the field during summer.
- Oriental mustard is a quick growing crop capable of controlling soil insects, nematodes and disease through natural bio-fumigation when plant parts are worked back into the soil.
- Fava beans are being planted as a cool season crop capable of fixing nitrogen, controlling erosion and adding biomass to the soil, while evading the destruction of migrating geese that befalls some winter cover crops.

The true value of this process can only be appreciated once practiced and understood. cover crops are a valuable tool to sustainable agriculture and an asset to any soil management program.



Fava beans, a cool season cover crop



Sunflowers, a warm season cover crop

## Boxelder Creek Nurseries - Colorado

- By Steve Carlson

In my travels, I often come across nurseries doing great things to make themselves and the nursery industry successful. On the plains of Colorado, northeast of Denver, is **Boxelder Creek Nurseries LLC**. Started in 1995, two Denver nurseries came together and started a wholesale nursery on 36 acres in Hudson, CO. Their goal being to grow plants for the high desert and rocky mountain areas.

From that start, Boxelder Creek Nurseries currently has about 780 total acres, of which there are 450 acres of deciduous and evergreen

field production. They are currently growing 100 different varieties harvesting trees from 2" to 5" caliper and evergreen pine trees from 5' to 12'. Boxelder Creek has added 12 acres of container shrubs in 1 to 7 gallon sizes and perennials in flats and 1gallon containers. The B&B trees that are not shipped field direct are put in a holding yard that is an impressive 21 acres and can hold 22,000 trees for summer shipment.

In developing

the nursery, they had to overcome several obstacles. The 21 acre holding yard is on a sandy spot in the nursery, not good for growing on, but great for heeling in trees. After they harvest trees, the balls are wrapped with a stretchy clear plastic film and heeled into the sand. The sand stays cool in the summer and does not decompose like wood products. With the film wrap, trees can be moved in the summer with little transplant shock.

The soil in the nursery is very alkaline, causing some chlorosis and slower growth in some tree varieties. To

help correct this problem they add a blue-green algae product to the irrigation water. Mike Jeronimus, one of the owners and General Manager, said from the first application they saw a dramatic improvement in the trees. Color was restored to the trees and growth improved. The only negative is when the algae is mixed in large vats to add into the irrigation system it swells considerably.

Irrigation is another challenge they had to overcome. Because they are located in a drought

prone part of the country, water is a valued resource. Boxelder Creek uses a combination of overhead irrigation for the container yard, drip in the tree heel-in area and surface irrigation for their field trees. Water comes from several source wells or surface water. These sources are strictly monitored by the state and local water districts and vary in amounts available on a yearly basis.



Despite these challenges, they feel it is very important to grow and expand the nursery to grow plants that are proven and adjusted to the Rocky Mountain area. Boxelder Creek is working with other local nurseries, Plant Select (a plant selection program at the Denver Botanical Gardens) and the University of Colorado to test and develop plants.

