

April 2007

Phytophthora ramorum

Update.

In 2003 there was quite an uproar over a new and deadly disease showing up in nurseries. Sudden Oak Disease was found in West Coast nurseries and was being distributed throughout the country. In 2004, 94 nurseries in non-regulated states received contaminated material. The bulk of that material was Camellia and Rhododendron.

The Oregon Association of Nurseries and the Oregon Department of Agriculture knew they had a problem, and immediately went to work. The USDA soon joined the group and an inspection and testing program was instituted.

The results are very positive. In 2005, there were no nurseries in non-regulated states receiving contaminated plants. In 2006, only 3 shipped plants were found to be contaminated.

The USDA continues to refine its testing systems, so you can rest assured that the plant material you buy from the West Coast doesn't carry any unwanted kooties.

Stretch it out!



Tree Notes

Prunus Okame

Sizzology 101

“Yes sir, we grow shade and flowering trees”. This is a line we often use at trade shows when someone approaches our booth. And we do, grow and sell, shade and flowering trees.

But maybe that approach is too simple. After all, the old adage says don't sell the bacon, sell the sizzle.

So, what is sizzley about trees? As tree guys, we think there's a lot.

The Obvious:

Shade: a cool place to relax on a hot day.

Color: a splash of vibrant color in the spring uplifts us after a long, dreary winter. Yellow, Orange, Red and Scarlet warms us as the temperature drops in fall.

The Less Obvious:

Architecture: trees soften the hard edges of our concrete cities in both in summer and winter; they screen ugly scenes, making our urban environments less oppressive.

Environment: trees improve air quality by removing pollutants and dust; they moderate wind, sun and rain; trees slow erosion and conserve water; trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen; they provide mulch improving soil conditions; trees provide food and habitat for wildlife.

Economic Value: trees can reduce the cost of heating and cooling buildings; landscaped properties are more saleable giving them greater value; trees provide food for people; trees along rivers and lakes cool the waters, enhancing fisheries.

Human-Arbor Connection:

Mankind has a deep affinity for trees. There is something comforting to a human to be in their presence. Stand quietly alone in a grove of trees for five minutes. You will probably experience stress dissolving and be enveloped in a sense of calmness and satisfaction. This practice can be as effective as an hour of massage. Of course those of you

who are A-types will be figuring board feet and how you'll get a log truck in there.

There are those who argue that trees are Earth's superior life form. Most humans will disagree, but lets look at the argument. Trees are totally self reliant, they are not violent, they don't snipe or gossip, they are never grumpy and never whine. Nor are they selfish, self righteous or carry airs of superiority, experience fear or greed. And they will not borrow your tools and forget to return them in good shape. So far humans don't measure up. We can finish that argument later.

From now on when you approach our trade show booth you are likely to hear: “Yes sir, we offer a product that will pick up your spirits, ease your eyes, improve the environment and make you healthier, put money in your pocket and soothe your soul”. Of course you'll have to wait to talk to us. Potential customers will be three deep in the aisle.

Sophie says:

Our Plants are Yummy



Visit us on the web at www.robinnursery.com, phone 877-855-8733, or fax 503-835-3004