

January 2008



Alfredo likes this one!

We are always researching and evaluating new varieties for our plant list. Some fail because they are hard to propagate, others because they're hard to grow. What hurts most is to find a good tree that grows well and when we finally offer it, no one seems interested.

Such a tree is:

Carpinus betulus 'Pendula'

Zone 4 Height: 8'-10'
Form: Weeping, Spreading

We have this tree available for the first time. Perhaps we haven't gotten the word out sufficiently. It is certainly not a good street tree, but weepers are valuable in many situations.

Rick decided to offer a large discount while they last. If you haven't grown this one yet, you ought to give it a try. It won't cost you a lot.

Available in Heavy for \$14.70 and #1 for \$12.90.

There's a great photo of a mature plant at www.hort.net/gallery/view/bet/carbepe

Tree Notes



Elm Confusion

It doesn't take long after looking at a few liner catalogs to realize that there are way too many cultivars of elm on the market. With the introduction of the Emerald Ash Borer into the Midwestern states and the absence of ash trees, nurserymen have come to the realization that elm may fill part of that gap. But which ones to grow?

Not every introduction does well in every location, due to temperature, zone, site conditions or other pests present in the area such as Japanese beetle. We try to be accurate on the descriptions based on research and what has been reported from our sales staff as well as many of our customers. It is still a learning process but a few that have performed well in multiple geographical areas are: **Princeton**, a true DED resistant American elm; **Frontier**, an excellent grower with good fall color; **Valley Forge**, another American Elm with a good a broad vase shape; and **Patriot**, a very sturdy upright growing cultivar.

A note on American Elm: They are triploid chromosomal trees which need to be cutting grown. Budding on an Asian Elm will work for a few years but there is a graft incompatibility. You can't use straight species for a rootstock as it is likely susceptible to DED. So when ordering American Elm varieties, it is important to ask how they are propagated. Here at Robinson they are produced from semi-softwood cuttings.

A quick rundown of the main varieties we grow:

American Selections:

Princeton - Zone 2a-9
Arching Vase 70'-90' x 50'-70'

Valley Forge - Zone 5-8
Broad Arching Vase, 70' x 70'

Asian Selections:

Accolade® - Zone 4-9
Upright Vase, 60' x 40'

Allee® - Zone 4-9
Upright, 50' x 35'

Bosque® - Zone 5-9
Upright, 50' x 35'

Danada Charm™ - Zone 5-9
Arching Vase, 70' x 60'

Discovery - Zone 3-7
Oval, 45' x 35'

Frontier - Zone 5-8
Upright Pyramidal, 25'-35' x 15'-20', Red Fall Color

New Horizon® - Zone 3-8
Compact Upright, 40' x 25'

Patriot - Zone 4-7
Arching Vase, Adaptable, 60' x 45'

Pioneer - Zone 5-8
Broadly Round, 50' x 60'

Prospector - Zone 5-7
Arching Vase, 50' x 25'

Regal - Zone 5-8
Upright, Erect, 60'-90' x 30'-40'

Triumph™ - Zone 4-8
Upright Oval, 60' x 40'

Most Elms are excellent urban trees, easily thriving in the harsh condition. They grow well in acid or alkaline soil, and are drought tolerant. Time will tell us which will win the Elms Race.

A Wee Little Cherub



Christmas was special for the Robinson clan this year. Rick and Roxanne were presented with a new granddaughter, Liliana. Parents Nikki and Jaime are doing fine except they lack sleep. Baby came in at a healthy nine pounds, one ounce.

As the soon-to-be Sales Manager, Liliana would like to remind you that smart tree growers plant to capacity, no matter what how things look now. You will need product in 4 years when the economy is hot again.

This kid is a go-getter!