

Stewartia = Wow

July 2009

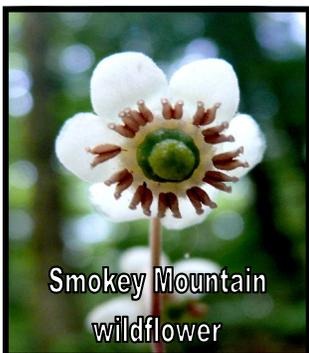
Summer Notes

We have moved allocation back to the first week in August, to give our customers more time to consider their production needs. We have a wide selection of great plants. Some varieties will go quickly so get your orders in as soon as possible.

We would like to invite any nursery people who are visiting Oregon this summer to take a tour of our operation.

We are available during business hours, or call for an appointment for the evening or the weekend.

Tom and Cheryl Monroe will be in the Robinson Nursery booth at the PANTS show in Philadelphia. If you are at the show, please stop by and say hello. The dates are July 28-30, and our booth number is 3095. See you there.



Smokey Mountain
wildflower

We grow a lot of trees, and all of them have attributes that make them special. Few, if any, come up to the level of *Stewartia koreana*.

Where to start? This member of the Olive family is a moderate sized tree, (20'-30' x 15'-20'), with an upright pyramidal habit.

The leaves are dark green and glossy. Like *Parrotia*, in fall they become yellow, orange, red, scarlet and purple.



The flattened flower is 3" in diameter with pure white petals and yellow stamens. It is similar to a *Camellia* flower. It blooms for several weeks in June-July. *S. pseudocamellia*'s flowers generally remain more cupped and have bright gold stamens.

We aren't done yet. With age, the bark exfoliates, having an orange-brown-gray jigsaw effect, similar to *Crape Myrtle*.

S. koreana is hardy to Zone 5, and is said to be the most heat tolerant of the *Stewartias*. It does best in a moist, well drained loamy acid soil with lots of

organic matter. It is also adaptable to clay and sand.

Stewartia will grow in part shade and full sun, but prefers shade in the hottest part of the day.

Another very important attribute: *Stewartia* is pretty much pest and disease free.



So if you are Zone 5 or higher, and grow in soil or containers, this is a tree that you can successfully grow.

This year we have a good crop of *Stewartia koreana* in #3 root pruning containers. We are quite proud of these trees and would really like to see them in your fields.



Probably the most famous quote from old time nurserymen is "Plant more when no one else is planting, and plant less when everyone is planting." Talking with nurserymen it seems to be the common feeling that there will be a shortage of 2" caliper trees in three or four years.

We have seen several of these downturns in the past decades, and the economy always gets better in a couple of years.

There is another old saying: "A word to the wise is sufficient".