

May 2007



Cornus alternifolia
Pagoda Dogwood
 Zone 3-7
 Height 15' - 20'
 Width 20' - 25'

Pagoda Dogwood is a much loved medium sized tree in its native range. In the west it is under known and under used. A variety of attributes make this tree appealing. In Spring, the tree produces creamy white fragrant flower clusters held against dark green foliage. In summer, glossy black berries follow. In fall the tree is ablaze with dark orange and red foliage.

The horizontal branching of Pagoda Dogwood produces a layered effect, looking very Oriental.

This Dogwood prefers moderate moisture, neutral to acidic soil, good drainage and full sun or light shade. There seems to be few disease or insect problems. Growing slowly in the beginning, it will flourish once established

Pagoda is available in branched or multi stemmed trees.

Tree Notes



Chionanthus retusus

\$#%*&+@ Suckers!

The Dogwood you see in the photo below has a problem. Unfortunately, the rootstock developed a sucker which was more vigorous than the scion,



resulting is a multi color bloom.

If you keep your eyes open you will see this problem wherever you go. Generally, the public doesn't know that suckers from understock need to be removed before they get very large.

Maybe in the present state of the world this isn't such a big problem, but we nurserymen tend to be nit pickers. We like things to be perfect.

There are ways to avoid this problem. Trees grown from seed, cuttings or tissue culture are of a single genetic material; suckers will be the same as the tree. Grafts and budded plants will often have differential sucker potential.

While we at Robinson Nursery always try to use the least suckering rootstock, there are occasionally going to be problems.

One solution: Grow "own root" multi-stem trees. Multi-stem trees are easier to grow than single stem. Little staking

or tying is required. Pruning is minimal. Growing single stem trees will always be your mainstay, but the market for multi-stem trees is growing.

We offer several items in multi-stem: cultivars of Acer, Amelanchier, Betula, Cercis, Cornus, Crataegus, Malus, Parrotia, Plum, Cherry, Magnolia and Syringa. These are all listed in our new catalog.



Prunus Canada Red

The Saga of the Ugly Green Rubber Shoes



Those of you who have followed our newsletter will remember these shoes. They belong to one of our trusted employees. She is so attached to them that she is unable to see what an eyesore they are. They finally developed a hole, and even though she was loathe to admit it, they were unusable in wet conditions. Her long suffering hus-

band thought, "At last, the garbage can!" But our employee had a plan. She couldn't wear them, but if she planted them with succulents, at least she could see them ever time she strolled through her landscape. Her husband is resigned to never getting rid of them. He's just thankful she didn't think to put them on the dining room table.