

Tree of the Month

Salix caprea 'Pendula'



Pussy Willow is the harbinger of spring, the first sign that the long, cold winter is coming to a close. This weeping form gives the gardener a pleasant structure to use in the landscape.

All kids, like Nena, love the soft, fuzzy catkins. Morris used to like the tender young shoots. Now he mostly just hangs around the office to see what mischief our fearless leader will get up to next.



Robinson Nursery Notes



Pre-plant Care of Trees

Pre-planting care of your bare root trees can mean the difference between success and failure. Most important, don't let the roots dry out. For some varieties of trees, we suggest "sweating".

Sweating

Sweating is a process used to force bud break and activate growth in dormant nursery stock. The goal is to hydrate the tree by increasing temperature and humidity surrounding the plant. We suggest sweating the following genera: *Carpinus*, *Crataegus*, *Celtis*, *Quercus*, and *Styrax*. Some suggest also sweating *Acer*, *Amelanchier*, *Betula*, *Fraxinus*, *Gleditsia*, *Liquidambar*, *Malus*, *Ostrya*, *Pyrus*, *Syringa* and *Tilia*. If

you have had trouble with any of these genera in the past, this simple process may save you headaches.

The process is fairly easy. It is best done out of direct sunlight so that excessive temperatures do not build up. Place a layer of moistened straw or sawdust on the ground. Soak the tree roots in water, then place the trees on the media. You may wish to spray the trees with a mold inhibiting fungicide. Next, cover the trees with moist media and cover the whole thing with plastic. Seal the edges. You should see results within 3-4 days. The buds will begin to swell. Sweating should not be done until the weather is mild enough to

plant the trees out. Tender young tissues may be damaged by cold temperatures.

Root Pruning

The roots are the main storehouse of energy during the dormant season. Most of the energy used by the tree in the first six weeks of new growth in the spring comes from this stored energy. We suggest that in preparing your bare root tree for planting, you remove as little root as possible. Prune any broken roots back to good wood, and tip cut the ends of major roots. The more energy the tree has available, the sooner it will re-establish itself and grow to a saleable size.

Staff Introductions

Alberto Padilla is originally from Jalisco, Mexico. He began working for Robinson Nursery in 1998, and soon was appointed as the manager of the propagation division. Each year he is responsible for producing over 850,000 seedlings and bare root cuttings. The last two winters he has been grafting

many varieties of *Cornus*, *Carpinus*, *Ginkgo*, *Hamamelis* and *Fagus* using a 'hot callus' grafting system.

Alberto is thought to be originator of the exclamation of surprise "Oh my shoes!", often heard around here.

Alberto and his wife have 3 sons and a daughter.

