

September, 2006

Cornus kousa chinensis

'Milky Way'



Ok folks, we did our part. We picked the seed and grew the seedling, found scion wood and grafted these puppies. Then we lined them out, staked, pruned, fertilized and watered to make a fine small tree.

Now it's time for you to do your part. Buy these babies. Growers are always looking for new and interesting material. Milky Way isn't all that new, but it sure is interesting. This photo was taken on a cloudy and damp day. The flowers lit up the landscape like a ray of hope; a white as pure as an Easter Lily against the green, so dark and solemn. Followed by summer's red fruit, fall's wild leaf color, and exfoliating bark, who could resist. Come on people!

Zone 5 25'H x 20'W

We have 300 branched trees remaining.



Tree Notes

Rodent Control

Critters have always caused problems for farmers and nurserymen. Specimen tree growers in the Willamette Valley have to deal with Voles and the humongous Camas Gopher, Beaver and Deer. Beaver and Deer can be fenced out. Vole populations are on a 7 year cycle and can get quite bad. Gophers are slower to reproduce but love to joy-ride.



The damage Voles cause is usually girdling around the trunk at the base of a tree. Gophers cause a mess with their digging and mounding, but also eat root tissue. You will see a leaning tree, go over to straighten it up, and pull it completely out of the ground, essentially rootless.

Gophers seem to prefer Ginkgo and Hibiscus.

Control is difficult. Poisonous baits have long been used. These contain some pretty nasty chemicals and easily find their way to non-target species. Baits can be fatal to scavengers; not good stewardship.

There are many eradication strategies including a machine which injects propane and oxygen into the run and sparked, blows the little devils up. It's lots of fun but a bit destructive.

Our Soil Conservation District suggests Raptor Poles. These are 4"x4"x20' treated poles with a small T on top, placed one per every 10 acres. Hawks sit on these waiting for prey to appear. Every now and again, place a Kestrel box half way up the pole. If placed early, the raptors keep down populations.

Barn owls are especially hard on gophers who come above ground at night. Barn Owls can be encouraged by placing nesting boxes in good habitat in you nurseries. Several web sites have plans for boxes. Just search Barn Owl Boxes.

Blue Herons too. We've seen a Blue Heron choke down a Camas Gopher as big as your forearm. That was the main course. Voles are just a snack. So promote wet-lands.



Far Out FarWest

The 2006 FarWest Show is now history. It is always an intense time for us. We were very pleased to see so many customers visiting from the Mid West and East Coast, as well as our local growers. We especially want to thank those of you who

took time to come by the nursery and take a tour. We encourage any of you who are in our area to stop by for a visit, and see what's going on.

Because of forest fires on Mt. Hood this year, visitors were treated to some wild sunrises.

