

Grower Tips



How do you insure that this bud will grow straight?



Solution: Bud Clip



Crimp into place



6 months later



Nursery Notes

Leading with Quality

Do you know the difference between a straight single leader and a straight cheer leader? If not, you'd better read this.

What is the difference between a grower who has new equipment, good looking buildings and drives a new truck, and a grower who's place looks like a junk yard? It may be the quality of his trees.

A grower of top quality can demand top dollar. A grower of junk has to sell for what he can get.

In general, landscape architects desire trees for their designs that look mature, even though they are only 2" or 3" in caliper. This means a straight central leader, branching evenly around the tree and a nicely filled out canopy.

It is difficult to produce a quality tree without staking and pruning.

For vigorous shade trees, most growers use 12' bamboo or conduit, never rebar. Trees are tied to the stake with elastic plastic tape that will not girdle the trunk. Often the tree will grow on over the top of the 12' stake and a 4' bamboo will need to be added.

Most trees will need winter and summer pruning. If they are not pruned, branches get so long and heavy that wind, snow and ice will cause a lot of breakage. The tree canopy can get so heavy that it will lay over.

The central leader tends to out grow the rest of the tree, especially when lateral branches are pruned.

The leader should be shortened to about 18" above the highest lateral branches. There are several methods to force the terminal bud to grow upright, and not produce a dogleg. Bud clips are a handy tool for this job.

When pruning lateral branches, always prune to an outside or lateral bud, never an inside bud. By using lateral buds, you can direct the branch to fill open areas in the canopy.

Pruning and staking cost money, but it will pay off in the long run. Sales are so much easier if you have a reputation for quality. And just keep thinking how good it will feel to drive that new truck.

As for the cheer leader, we'll take her up later.

Cornus mas 'Golden Glory'

It's hard to imagine now in the midst of Summer, but remember back in the first part of March, when we were still in winter mode. That first bloom in early spring was so full of cheer. 'Golden Glory' is one of the heralds of Spring.

And then in the fall, it is loaded with bright red shiny fruit. A great shrub for the border, foundation plantings, or as specimens. Zone 4, 20' x 15', pest free.

For the Far West Show and all of September, offered at a 15% discount.

