



Tilia 'Greenspire'

Stewartia koreana

## Myth Busters



We attended an interesting seminar recently about Myth Busting. Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott is a Professor and Extension Horticulturist at Washington State University. One of her interests is checking which horticultural practices are supported by science and which are not. Some of the things she talked about are the following:

**Compost Tea:** There are mixed results in the lab and field, but Aerated Compost Tea was less effective than Non-Aerated Compost Tea for controlling pathogens. As for soil application, ACT had no noticeable effect. Much more effective and much less expensive is the application of mulch to the soil. Let nature brew the tea.

**Phosphate Fertilizer:** Most soils have sufficient Phosphorus in the soil. Too much Phosphorus competes with Iron and Manganese uptake, inhibits Mycorrhizal Fungi, and pollutes water. It is always best to have your soil tested before adding any fertilizer, and then follow the recommendations.

**Injection Fertilizer of Established Trees:** Most of the feeder roots are in the top 18" of soil. Fertilizer injections place the fertilizer below these roots where they do no good.

**Injection of Insecticide and Fertilizer into Large Trees:** No scientific proof that either works, and injection sites can lead to infection.

**Adding Mycorrhizae to soil:** Up to 90% of the product in commercially available Mycorrhizae is dead. Most healthy soils have plenty of Mycorrhiza Fungi available.

**Corn Gluten:** Not advisable in wet spring and wet fall areas. The weeds love it. Mulch instead.

**Bio dynamics:** Based on Astrology, Alchemy and Homeopathy, not science. Effects when used in vineyards similar to accepted organic practices.

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It is a beautiful 50 degree sunny February 1<sup>st</sup> as I write this. After a great digging season we now have all of our product dug, graded and in storage ready for spring shipping. The fall started off nice and dry and then turned as wet as I have ever seen it. January had a good stretch of weather that allowed us to finish our harvesting. Not much cold weather as of yet with only a few 25 degree days. Our crews are currently busy grafting, pruning and getting our seedlings and cuttings ready for spring plantings. Sales continue with a slight increase over last year, keeping us optimistic for the future of the nursery business. I want to thank you for choosing Robinson Nursery as a source for your nursery stock needs. With your input we will continue to improve our product and services. Rick