

## WE'VE GOT ROOTS

Roots have two very important roles:

Anchor the tree in the ground and take up water, minerals, and nutrients from the soil that help the tree grow. Old roots are tough and woody, providing a solid anchor for the tree; while most of the nutrients taken into the tree, are absorbed by young roots.



We understand the importance of roots. We are proud of our roots. The young roots of our company look to our anchors for wisdom and guidance. We also have a new genesis with a passion for soaking up all that we can. In our pursuit to grow your expectations we are committed to seeking solutions and results.

At any given time, there are a series of trials occurring at Robinson Nursery. Over recent years, various root trials have increased our ability to consistently produce full and fibrous root systems. We recently took a hard look at the plants still being thrown away due to poor root systems.

The majority of our cuttings are rooted in pumice and have been for years. Pumice, you may or may not know, is a very light and porous volcanic rock. It is formed when a gas-rich froth of glassy lava solidifies rapidly. The highly porous nature of this excellent soil conditioner allows it to hold vital nutrients and regulate fertilizer feedings. It is the perfect addition to soils that need increased aeration and drainage. Pumice has a variety of horticultural uses since it is pH neutral and does not attract or host fungi, nematodes, or insects. Despite these impressive qualities, we still found ourselves with an unsatisfactory number of root culls.



Pictured: *Acer rubrum* 'Autumn Flame'  
 Left: 1 yr cutting removed from pumice  
 Right: 2 yr transplant cutting  
 Note: The numerous mature roots with uniform strength.

We were determined to find a solution for this in propagation. Let the trials begin! One year cuttings of certain varieties were removed from the pumice beds. Their root systems were pruned, then they were replanted in an air root pruning propagation tray for another year. The results of this process showed several secondary roots had matured and thrived due to this transfer. Creating higher quality root systems with more uniform branching. In the end, allowing us to finish a higher percentage of plants.

Our tests and trials strengthen us. With each passing day we become more fibrous, more mature. We love the opportunity to continue to grow beautiful plants and your expectations. We feel blessed to be surrounded by knowledge and wisdom that has come from the combined expertise of our sales team, our cultivators, our parents, and our customers. Thank you for choosing Robinson Nursery for your liner needs. We look forward to the day we join the tough, woody roots that anchor us to the ground and watch our young roots absorb, learn, and grow.