



Species Selection- Part I: Nursery Selection & Part II: Seasonal Landscaping

A Resource List

ACT WEBCAST SERIES

The ACT Webcast Series is a webcast held at the lunch hour on Thursdays, and is made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation and USDA Forest Service. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

Correctly planting and protecting trees is a good thing to do. However, planting and protecting trees also requires coordinating time and resources. ACT minimizes such requirements by sharing the innovative ideas and organized approaches of successful projects and models for members to replicate. We invite you to join the Alliance for Community Trees for more ways to get involved. Together, we create a strong voice on behalf of the urban forest and make a great difference in the health, beauty, and livability of our communities. We strengthen communities by offering action-oriented approaches that bring people together around a common purpose.

TOPICS

Tree selection does not end with choosing the appropriate specie or cultivar for the planting site. Suitable nursery stock must be chosen based on planting site conditions and intended aftercare, which should dictate maximum tree size at planting, root ball characteristics, appropriate tree production method, and tree structure. Choosing good quality tree stock is about increased survival rates, quicker establishment, and better integration with the landscape. Especially in places subject to heavy wind, rain, and snow, choosing good quality tree stock reduces the likelihood of failure from structural defects.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/species_selection-_part_i_nursery_selection.php

Trees in the landscape might be most famous for their fall foliage, but thoughtful planting can produce multiple seasons of interest. In addition to leaf color, other features like bark, limbs, fruit, flowers, scent, and overall form contribute to the visual appeal of trees. Many features become noticeable only in winter, after leaves have fallen and exposed the bark and branch structure underneath. Some trees retain their fruit through the winter, some flower in the summer, and many blossom in the spring. Carefully selecting the trees for your landscape with an eye to seasonal characteristics can help ensure that the trees will attract people's attention and appreciation exactly when they're supposed to.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/species_selection-_part_ii_seasonal_landscapi.php





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TRAINERS

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Greg Paige joined the Bartlett ranks as Arboretum Curator at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory in Charlotte, North Carolina in May of 2005. Greg's career in Public Horticulture has spanned 20 years. Previous to Bartlett he was at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, North Carolina and the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. Additionally he has worked at The Biltmore Estate in Asheville NC, the Holden Arboretum outside Cleveland Ohio, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens as well as tours of duty in the landscape maintenance world, the nursery trade and even a stint as a Horticulturist at a Cemetery.

Barrett Robinson joined NYRP in 2007 and is responsible for managing the design process for the organization's 55 community gardens and individual park renovation projects, working with many renowned landscape architects and designers from across the country. In addition, Barrett oversees NYRP's procurement of all horticultural and construction materials and selects landscape contractors for NYRP's capital and MillionTreesNYC-affiliated projects. He is also principal coordinator of the Corporate and Community Volunteer days and manager of the MillionTreesNYC Training Program. Before joining NYRP, Barrett worked in garden design and project management in New York City and at a number of landscape service companies in the Columbus, OH, area, specializing in sourcing and procurement. Barrett attended Ohio State University, where he majored in Agri-Business and minored in Marketing.

Edith Makra joined the staff of The Morton Arboretum in 2005. Makra has been an ally and educator to communities, homeowner associations and residents who are interested in and passionate about saving trees. Makra works with a wide variety of Chicago-area municipalities helping them to draft tree preservation ordinances, advising home associations on landscape contracts and how to choose trees, and helping communities plan their Arbor Day celebrations. Before coming to the Morton Arboretum, Makra served as the director of the Massachusetts state urban forest program. Makra has been in the forefront of the Illinois fight against the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB).





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SUCCESS STORIES- Nursery Selection

New York Restoration Project and New York City Parks & Recreation (New York, NY)

MillionTreesNYC is a citywide, public-private program with the ambitious goal to plant and care for one million new trees across the City's five boroughs over the next decade. The increase in tree plantings has forced New York City Parks & Recreation and New York Restoration Project (NYRP) to refine its tree procurement strategy. Annual street tree planting numbers have more than doubled, which has led to opportunities and challenges in working with new contractors, training new staff, and developing metrics to track the number of trees planted. The most cost effective and realistic solution was to create long-term contracts with nurseries to grow desired species of trees to very exacting standards. From there, tree procurement contracts were created and nurserypersons were contacted about becoming a part of this business arrangement. In the spring of 2009, the contracts created were initiated and after being in effect for over a year a number of benefits have arisen. NYRP and Parks & Recreation contract directly with nurseries and each nursery provides between 4,500-7,000 individual specimens of approved tree species per year, all of which are grown to very specific standards. The most common species procured are Zelkova, Sophora, and PlaneTree. Each tree is inspected annually, as it grows in the nursery; before it's harvested; and at delivery to ensure the tree meets exact specifications. By working directly with the nursery, Parks and NYRP can obtain not only higher quality trees but also many great urban trees that were not readily available in the nursery industry. Each tree that is planted is hand selected by highly trained individuals that are looking for only the best trees.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/news/newsroom/tree_procurement_contracts_new_york_citys_que.php

Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories (Charlotte, NC)

The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory is a modern, fully equipped lab with an extensive library, education center, an arboretum containing about 2,000 species of trees and plants, several working test plots, and even a bird sanctuary. The laboratories are capable of evaluating plant samples, culturing and identifying disease-causing organisms, identifying insects and performing complete soil analysis services. Staffed with scientists in fields such as plant pathology, entomology, and botany, the research laboratories advise Bartlett's arborists on the latest advances in arboriculture for the benefit of the customers. A primary function of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories is to provide intense, technical and career training to the Bartlett representatives, technicians, and workers who care for the trees and shrubs on client properties. As a result of many training opportunities available, Bartlett's technical expertise is unsurpassed in arboriculture.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/species_selection-_part_i_nursery_selection.php

Parks & People Foundation (Baltimore, MD)

For its Fall tree sale, Parks & People Foundation partnered with the native plant nursery RPM Ecosystems to provide the Baltimore region with exceptional trees. The native plants for sale are reliable, hardy and adaptable to the climatic conditions of the mid-Atlantic region and grown in a unique way from quality seeds. The RPM trees are suitable for conservation and restoration plantings as well as for parks, schoolyards, neighborhoods, businesses, institutions, residential yards and greening just about any landscape. These Maryland approved native plants will provide immediate ecological benefits wherever they are planted. Parks & People uses RPM trees that are one year old plants. Each tree comes in a 3 gallon container (10 inches diameter and 7 inches deep) and range in size from 1 foot to 5 feet in height depending on species. A special characteristic of RPM trees is that they have been grown by using a proprietary process that results in a root ball significantly more developed than other one-year-old trees. Given the larger, more developed root system, these trees will absorb more nutrients and water, so the tree will grow faster than other trees, producing seeds earlier.

More information at: <http://www.parksandpeople.org/support/purchase-a-tree/fall-spring-tree-sale/>





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SUCCESS STORIES- Nursery Selection (continued)

TreePeople (Beverly Hills, CA)

Each year, TreePeople grows thousands of seedlings for the restoration of local forests and parks at the W. M. Keck Foundation Nursery. Most of the seedlings in the nursery are grown from native seeds and acorns collected locally by staff and volunteers. TreePeople nurture the seedlings at the nursery for up to two years, until they are strong enough to be planted back at their collection sites – increasing the likelihood of their survival in the wild. The nursery also grows and cares for fruit trees that TreePeople distributes to low-income communities in Los Angeles through the organization’s Fruit Tree Program.

More information at: <http://www.treepeople.org/wm-keck-foundation-nursery>

Northeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association (LaPlume, PA)

From 1999 through 2002 the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association organized a regional group tree purchase for community tree programs. It began with two communities purchasing hydrogel-dipped, bare root trees following a workshop help with Dr. Nina Bassuk from Cornell University. The second year, the tree purchase grew to eight communities ordering about 250 trees. By ordering together, the communities saved money on shopping costs, enjoyed reduced costs from balled and burlap trees, enjoyed lighter trees easily planted with volunteers, received trees with 200 percent more roots than B&B, and working with an urban forester on plant selection.

More information at: www.na.fs.fed.us/urban/newsltr/2002/urban_nwsltr_jan02.pdf

City of Fort Worth (Fort Worth, TX)

The City of Fort Worth’s Forestry department runs its own 71-acre tree farm called Rolling Hills Tree Farm, where the fields are planted with seeds collected throughout the city from hardy stock. Forestry produces both containerized and B&B trees at Rolling Hills. The large B&B trees grown there are used in the city’s Tree Grant Program. This program makes available the Farm’s field grown, 3-inch caliper B&B trees to be transplanted on public property within the City of Fort Worth. Tree may be planted along street medians, nonresidential parkways, public parks, Fort Worth Trinity Trails, and other public property including fire and police stations, libraries, and schools. The B&B trees are only available during the dormant season, usually December through March, while the container-grown trees may be planted throughout the spring.

More information at: www.fortworthgov.org/pacs/fwpcsd/forestry/service/TreeGrant/servmedian.htm





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SUCCESS STORIES- Seasonal Landscaping

The Morton Arboretum (Lisle, IL)

In front of the Thornhill Education Center is a small formal garden designed to provide visual interest throughout the year. Originally planted in 1994, the garden is about 2,000 square feet and contains over 70 different kinds of plants.

To further emphasize the seasonal aspect of the garden, the small circular bed in the center is changed during spring, summer, fall, and winter. From spring to fall, colorful annuals are planted to enhance the permanent plantings. In winter, the bed is dressed up with winter greens and stems. Beyond this, the Arboretum has developed a number of programs, outreach strategies, and activities to showcase the unique features of trees and plants at different times throughout the year and highlight their best seasonal characteristics.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/events/species_selection-_part_ii_seasonal_landscapi.php

United States National Arboretum (Washington, DC)

The annual Fall Fruit & Foliage show is one of the most popular seasonal exhibits of the year. No need to go all the way to Skyline Drive in Virginia to enjoy beautiful fall colors. See red maples, yellow ginkgos and fruited trees in the museum's permanent collection pavilions. The Special Exhibits Wing features select trees during their peak colors. This event occurs in November, along with other events that celebrate the season's colors.

More information at: <http://www.usna.usda.gov/>

Department of Natural Resources (South Charleston, WV)

When the winter season begins and most people start coming down with cabin fever, West Virginia's Department of Natural Resources has discovered tree bark rubbing to be a fun simple activity that can get kids of all ages out in the great outdoors even on a cold winter's day. The process is easy: find a tree with interesting looking bark and hold a piece of paper tight on the bark. Take a crayon with the paper removed and rub it sideways on the paper until a pattern appears. DNR has also found ways to vary this activity such as, trying different colored crayons and different trees to obtain unique pictures, collecting all of your rubbings and making a book of as many trees as you can, and finding what kind of tree gives the best result. Bigger trees will work the best and remember not to remove the bark from the trees.

More information at: <http://www.wvdnr.gov/Wildlife/Rubbings.shtm>

Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area (Lake County, IL)

The woods at Ryerson host a diversity of trees. Spectators have found these trees to be particularly difficult to identify in the winter. For this reason, Ryerson offers spectators an online guide for identifying trees in the winter at Ryerson Woods. The guide has four clues: nuts, seeds and berries, twigs, bark, and branching formations. Each clue is explained and has visual aids to best aid spectators

More information at: <http://www.ryersonwoods.org/p/wintertrees.html>

The Morton Arboretum (Lisle, IL)

No matter what time of year you explore the grounds of The Morton Arboretum, nature parades finery in a rainbow of colors ranging from bright reds, yellows, and purples to more subtle greens, maroons, gold, browns, and grays. In the fall and spring, Ed Hedborn, Plant Record Manager and The Arboretum Color Scout, takes a weekly inventory of what's in bloom. Read his detailed weekly Fall Color Reports in September, October, and November, and Spring Bloom Reports in April, May, and June. During the remaining months, look at each appropriate season for a guide to what special hues give the Arboretum its seasonal beauty.

More information at: <http://www.mortonarb.org/whats-in-bloom.html>





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PUBLICATIONS- Nursery Selection

Selecting Quality Trees from the Nursery

Edward F. Gilman and Laura Sadowski provide an excellent guide to selecting high-quality tree stock from nurseries, including information on container, balled-in-burlap, and bare root trees. Nursery stock must be inspected carefully to pick high quality trees. Pay particular attention to roots. Trees of poor quality may be inexpensive, but might perform poorly in the landscape. Quality factors to evaluate include root ball defects, size, shape, and structure of the canopy, nursery planting depth, presence of included bark, trunk form and branch arrangement, pruning cuts, presence of pests and disease, leaf color, top die-back, clear trunk length, and canopy uniformity.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/research/selecting_quality_trees_from_the_nursery.php

Guideline Specifications for Nursery Tree Quality

A committee comprised of municipal arborists, urban foresters, nurserymen, U.C. Cooperative Extension horticultural advisors, landscape architects, non-profit tree groups, horticultural consultants, etc., developed the specifications to ensure high quality landscape trees. After more than a year of work, the committee succeeded in drafting a document, which will be published and the guidelines promoted throughout the nursery and landscape industry. Its intent is to help landscape professionals develop their own comprehensive and detailed specifications to ensure that they obtain high quality container-grown nursery trees.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/research/guideline_specifications_for_nursery_tree_qua.php

Trees for Urban and Suburban Landscapes

Dr. Edward Gilman, professor at the University of Florida, is the author of one of the most comprehensive all-in-one full-color tree guide for continental North America. This complete book includes the latest information on the cornerstones of tree management--selection, planting, establishment, and fertilization--while giving practical details on over 1,000 species. More than 500 color photos make tree identification realistic and enable students to easily select the right tree for the right landscape. The first text to guide students through the tree selection process, *Trees in Urban and Suburban Landscapes* is the most complete reference on tree culture and management.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/research/selecting_quality_trees_from_the_nursery.php

Bare Root to Bare Root: Coming Full Circle

An estimated 80 percent of all landscape tree problems originate below ground relating to quality and placement of the root system. Structural root defects and root planting depth issues can occur during all stages of tree production and establishment including nursery propagation and production, landscape specification development and planting, and post-planting and transplanting maintenance. A proposed technique for revealing tree roots prior to finishing the planting or transplanting process, so that root defects can be seen and if possible, corrected, and planting height can be properly adjusted, is bare rooting.

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/resources/research/transplanting_success_of_balled-and-burlapped.php

The Adventurous Gardener; Where to buy the best plants in New England

The Adventurous Gardener is a lively guide to more than 140 outstanding nurseries throughout New England personally visited by the author, Ruah Donnelly- a resource for veteran gardeners, novices, plant fanatics, designers, and explorers of the New England landscape. Information ranges from growers and suppliers in New England offering unusual locally grown plants that will thrive in your garden to picturesque New England nurseries from family farms to greenhouses to nursery locations, Web sites, e-mail addresses, and ordering information. Donnelly also offers a guide for the New York and New Jersey regions.

More information at: <http://www.adventurousgardener.com/ne/index.htm>





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PUBLICATIONS- Seasonal Landscaping

Trees for All Seasons: Broadleaved Evergreens for Temperate Climates

In this book, well-known horticulturist Sean Hogan features over 300 outstanding trees for color, texture, and year-round foliage in this outstanding book. Broadleaved evergreens are trees that don't lose their leaves. And despite their versatility and beauty, they are often underused. Why? Most people, including knowledgeable gardeners, equate evergreens with conifers — and Christmas trees — rather than broadleaved plants. And many of the most attractive broadleaved evergreens have only recently become commercially available. Sean Hogan aims to correct the problem with this groundbreaking title. Ten years of research has gone into the detailed descriptions and photographs of trees. Hogan has filled an obvious gap in horticultural literature. By bringing to light hundreds of exciting plants that have the potential to transform gardens, he also performs an outstanding service.

More information at: http://www.timberpress.com/books/trees_all_seasons/hogan/97808881926743





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ONLINE GUIDES

Nursery Selection

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co. Tree Reference Guide

Brimming with colorful photos, informative descriptions and accurate drawings that depict mature size and form, the Tree Reference Guide produced by J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co. illustrates more than 400 of the species and cultivars that the company grows and ships to nurseries and landscape projects across North America. An invaluable reference found on designers' bookshelves for more than 20 years, J. F Schmidt & Son are now pleased to offer it online as well as in print. This downloadable guide contains information about hundreds of tried and true as well as brand new trees. Many are widely available at nurseries nationwide.

More information at: <http://www.jfschmidt.com/rg/index.html>

ISA Recommendation for Selecting High-Quality Trees

The International Society of Arboriculture offers online guides for choosing appropriate types of trees and selecting good quality trees. These pages provide details on potential problems and other important considerations.

More information at: www.treesaregood.com/treecare/buying_highquality.aspx
www.treesaregood.com/treecare/_tree_selection.aspx

Clemson University Extension (Clemson, SC)

This guide to tree stock selection was prepared by Bob Polomski and Debbie Shaughnessy. Trees must be selected for quality, which can be determined through thoughtful inspection. Quality factors to evaluate include root ball size and structure; trunk form and strength; branch structure; and evidence of injury, disease or poor cultivation methods.

More information at: www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/trees/hgic1004.html

Nursery Guide

The online version of the Oregon Association of Nurseries' Directory & Buyers Guide publication. This annual 536-page publication is distributed nationally. Online you can search the database for growers, plants, services and nursery-related products. NurseryGuide is free to use, with no registration or password required. This site is intended for the wholesale trade, however; growers and companies listed may enforce minimum orders. If you are looking for retail nurseries, a free Guide to Retail Nurseries is also available.

More information at: <http://www.nurseryguide.com/>

Seasonal Landscaping

Selecting Trees & Shrubs for their Winter Bark

Come winter, the shapes of trunks and limbs, the varied textures and colorations of barks, become a tremendous feature. Selecting trees with their leafless appearance in mind assures a garden's all-seasons delight.

More information at: <http://www.paghat.com/bark.html>

Trees for All Seasons

The "Trees For All Seasons Poster" is a brightly colored poster that visually represents the stages that a tree moves through during the four seasons. The poster includes information about the value of trees, tree troubles, and native trees in Minnesota. Each season has information that includes, seeds to trees, how trees grow, cold adaptations, tips to help trees in a season, and blooming branches.

More information at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/education/treeforallseasons/fall.html>





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IN THE NEWS- Seasonal Landscaping

Trees for All Seasons (Digger Magazine)

The Oregon Association of Nurseries has found that customers are always requesting that growers sell new and different trees. In a general sense, growers are betting on trees that are smaller, have a narrower or more upright growth habit and display attractive features in more than one season. Multi-seasonal interest brings additional value to some varieties that are meeting the needs of customers looking for trees to fit on smaller lots. For example, *Cercis* (redbud) species overall have become more popular not only because of their size but also for their ability to perform year-round. More and more growers are paying more money for valued attributes such as, changing leaf or bark color. More information at: http://actrees.org/site/news/newsroom/customers_desire_trees_for_all_seasons.php

The Dry Garden: Trees shed their winter coats (Los Angeles Times)

With the summer solstice nigh, California's best-adapted woody plants are slipping into dormancy to ride out the dry season. As they do so, still sated on spring rain, newly thickened by another year's growth, the most wanton of the lot are shedding last year's bark. "It happens right at eye level," says Santa Barbara horticulturist Carol Bornstein. Perhaps the most noticeable example, she guesses, is the flaky habit of the California sycamore, whose shedding pattern she describes as creating a "gray-on-white jigsaw puzzle."

More information at: http://actrees.org/site/news/newsroom/the_dry_garden_trees_shed_their_winter_coats.php

