

Small Trees With Big Impact

An excellent small tree that we think deserves more attention is *Amelanchier* 'Autumn Brilliance'. It comes in both a single-stem and multi-stemmed form. Free of pests and disease, it grows around 20' tall and 15' wide, with ornamental white flowers in spring. The flowers yield in the summer to red berries that the birds will eat. The red-orange fall color is especially nice. In winter, the tree shows off its upright form and attractive, smooth, gray bark. With its small leaves and smaller overall size, this Serviceberry fits into spaces and perennial gardens where some light shade is desired.

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk' is a Japanese Tree Lilac with a great show of large, white, fragrant, cone-shaped flowers in early June, after the other Lilacs are done blooming. It also comes in both a single-stem and multi-stemmed form. The tree is a real show-stopper when in bloom, and remains attractive the rest of the season. It grows around 20' tall and 15' wide.

A new one for us this year is *Prunus x incam* 'Okame', better known as Okame Cherry. This hardy hybrid puts on an incredible show of bright pink flowers on upright, arching branches in early spring. The foliage remains attractive all summer and turns bronze



***Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk'**

in the fall. The tree grows up to 20' tall with a spread of 15'.

Crabapples, of course, are wonderful small trees. We carry several excellent varieties, all of which are very disease resistant. One of the best is 'Prairiefire', with an outstanding show of raspberry pink flowers in spring and beautiful bronze foliage all summer.

We have the usual single-stem tree in a couple of different sizes, and this year, we were able to find it in clump form—three trees planted close together. We are big fans of the multi-stem and clump form of small trees. Pruning off the lower branches as the tree matures exposes the several stems and avoids a bushy look.

RETAIL HOURS

From April 10 through October 10, we are open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 to 5:00. We are closed on Sundays, as well as on July 4, and Labor Day, September 1. Please note that we will be closing at 4:00 on Saturday, June 28, for Molly's wedding.

Open House June 12, 13 And 14

Our twenty-first annual Open House and Hosta Walk will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 12, 13 and 14. The hostas should be looking great at that time.

Refreshments will be served, and drawings for prizes will be held each day. We will also have a selection of specially priced plants, including a good selection of hostas.

Down Under Pots

Check out these Down Under Pots. They have an opening in the bottom, as well as in the top. To plant, you turn the pot upside down, stuff the excelsior material in the bottom (which is actually the top of the pot), and pot an upward-growing plant in the opening in the bottom. Let it get rooted for a few days, then turn the pot right side up and hang it.

The plant will turn to grow up along the sides of the pot, making for a great hanging plant and a real conversation piece. Watering is done through the opening in the top. The photo shows a Down Under Pot with coleus, just starting to turn upwards.



Iris Season Could Be Late

Given the late spring we have had, one would expect the iris season to run a little late this year. The last half of May is typically the peak of the season, so the latter portion of the season may run into June a bit more than usual. A lot depends on how much heat we get between now and the middle of May.

Please note that we will be closed on Sundays, even during the peak of the iris season. However, we will be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.

For those of you who have

never purchased irises from us, a short explanation is in order. We take orders for the irises here in the spring. Customers walk through the field during bloom time and select the varieties they wish to order. The orders are placed and paid for now, and we dig the orders in July, usually a few days after July 4. We can ship the iris rhizomes to you, or you can pick them up. Most of our customers pick up their orders in July so that they can see the daylily field blooming at that time.

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