

Tree Planting

This is not going to be just another article on Global Warming - this is simply going to be a discussion about what you can do to help the earth, and really, who's against that? Sound hokey? Here it goes . . .



The two comments in the right column are from the United Nations Billion Tree Campaign. Check it out by going to

www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness about deforestation, erosion, global warming and to plant 1 billion trees worldwide in 2007. To encourage visitors to the site, they have devised a way for global tree planters to log in the number of trees they plant and watch the number grow!

One billion trees. That's a lot of trees, right? To understand this further, to make up for the loss of trees in the past decade, we would need to plant 130 million hectares, an area as large as Peru, solid in trees. Covering the equivalent of 130 million hectares would entail planting

approximately 14 billion trees every year for 10 consecutive years. This would require each person to plant and care for at least two trees a year.

Now we're getting into language that is more meaningful. Take this a little further. If everyone in Viroqua, for example, plants two trees, then they will be working toward absorbing the CO₂ from eight cars every year. If there are 5,000 cars in Viroqua, then those industrious tree planters will be able to take care of the CO₂ from an additional 35,000 cars - WOW!

In order to log in your planted trees, you need to plant two. We'd like to make sure that you get two. So for every tree purchased this spring, we'll give you a sapling. Choose between large shade trees and ornamentals.

Read's Creek Nursery

is offering a tree sapling for every tree purchased this spring at full price over \$40.

We'll have a nice variety. C'mon, two trees per person. Then log in and enter them online. Offer good from April 23 - June 21. Tell a friend.



**Planting trees
 remains the
 cheapest, most
 effective means of
 drawing excess
 CO₂ from the
 atmosphere.**

- The United Nations
 Billion Tree Campaign

**One tree will
 absorb the
 CO₂ from
 4 cars every
 year.**

- The United Nations
 Billion Tree Campaign

Spring Ahead . . .

That was more "winter" than we've had in years! At least we had a few good storms. It looks like our lowest temperature here at the nursery was -28 F, so that puts us solidly, and humbly, back in our zone 4 where we should be. And we're glad for it.

What's new at the nursery? We continue to try to bring to you unique plants that you won't see everywhere else, and are HARDY. So we plant out unusual specimens here at the nursery, and we encourage you to look around and ask questions about what you see.

Keep in mind, we can build amazing natural stone walls, patios, and brickwork to enhance your landscaping.

Bill Kappler and Lisa Ashley



Pruning for Health and Beauty

While this is an article about the “health and beauty” of the plants, I’m bound to say that pruning - constructive pruning - can improve the health and beauty of your garden, and yourself! Get out in the early spring, sharpen your tools, and get to work. You’ll see how good it feels!



The pruning questions we are most often asked have to do with “WHEN?” A general rule is that if a shrub blooms very early in the spring, such as forsythia, lilacs, azaleas, rhodies, magnolias, and bridalwreath spirea, then the time to prune it is right after it blooms. These are the plants that bloom on old wood. If you must

prune it before it blooms, you won’t injure the plant, you’ll just cut off the year’s blooms.

Then there are plants that bloom on old wood, but later in the season. Weigela falls into this group. No matter when you prune you will prune off some flowers, so go at it lightly; this plant is available in many cultivars that grow to different sizes - choose one that fits your site so heavy pruning is unnecessary.

The third group of shrubs includes those that bloom on new wood. These plants include potentilla, summer blooming spirea, and barberry. They should be pruned before their growth starts in the spring. This group can also be sheared very lightly in midsummer to promote another flush of bloom.

This brings the discussion to whether any pruning should be done in the fall. Seems like a good time, right? There’s much more time and there’s a certain tidiness that pruning brings. The truth is, however, Fall used to be thought of as a good time to prune deciduous material, but spring really is better if possible. Plants store lots of energy in twiggy

growth to help them overwinter, and cuts will heal more quickly when the plant is getting ready to grow as opposed to shutting down.

Make clean cuts with sharp tools. Branches need to be cut at an angle right above the branch collar. The branch collar is the ridge that forms where it attaches to the trunk or larger branch. If you leave too much above the branch collar, suckers will grow there; if you cut into it, it won’t heal properly.

Unless the tree is in danger of contracting a disease, such as an oak pruned outside of the dormant season, leave the wound open to the air to heal. Tree paint is not recommended as it once was.

To prune spruce, pine, fir and others that put out candles of new growth, prune no more than half of the new growth before it begins to stiffen. Arborvitae can be sheared just about anytime. Yews and junipers can be sheared quite severely, as they put out new growth on old wood.

A Revolution in Coneflowers



Read’s Creek Nursery will be carrying 25 varieties of *Echinacea* this season! Wow - who would have even thought there were that many varieties. It wasn’t long ago when *Echinacea* ‘Magnus’ was the Perennial Plant of the Year and we all thought there couldn’t be anything better. It’s still a good plant, but the size of the flower, which was its “claim to fame,” has gotten smaller over the years, probably because it is grown from seed and it’s natural for it to lose those traits over the generations.

Well, lately, plant breeders have been pretending they are bees and producing Coneflowers in all kinds of colors and shapes. If you’re looking for

recommendations from this long list, I would very excitedly suggest the Big Sky series. These plants are a combination of *Echinacea purpurea* and *Echinacea paradoxa*, in other words by crossing a purple and a yellow coneflower. What you get are remarkably strong stemmed, subtly drooping petals, fragrance, and bushy plants in amazing colors!

‘Sunrise’ - citron yellow with an amber cone

‘Twilight’ - rose red with a deep red cone

‘Summer Sky’ - a light orange/rose bicolor and orange cone

‘Sundown’ - russet orange with a red/brown cone

‘Harvest Moon’ - earthy gold with orange cone

WATCH FOR EVEN MORE !

Hanging Baskets

Waves * Million Bells

Reserve your hanging basket early - tag it now and we’ll hold it until you’re ready!

Large specimen baskets available.



Opening April 1

Hosted by Read's Creek Nursery
 Sponsored by Kindred Threads
 Festival held at former nursery
 location - right next door!

Call the nursery, or Kindred Threads
 at 637-9276 for more details



2nd annual Spring Fiber Festival

Vendors, Demos, Fiber Animals
 Celebrate Spring

May 26 - 10am to 4pm

Top 10 Reasons why people select their plants from Read's Creek Nursery . . .

- # 10. More than 1,000 hardy plant varieties
- # 9. Unusual annual flowers, vegetables, and herbs
- # 8. Environmentally sound growing practices
- # 7. Experienced planting advice
- # 6. Plant wish lists fulfilled (if we don't have it, we can get it!)
- # 5. Helpful information on our website
www.readscreeknursery.com
- # 4. Site-specific plant solutions
- # 3. Creative landscape design and installation
- # 2. Resource and reference library on hand

And, the number one reason why people select
their plants from Read's Creek Nursery . . .

We'll work hard to earn your business !

www.readscreeknursery.com

Log on to our internet site for:

- Informative gardening articles
- Updated plant lists
- Photos
- Sending wish lists
- Emailing your gardening questions

We'd love to hear from you -
lisa@readscreeknursery.com

We're easy to find!

70 miles from Madison - take Hwy 14 west through Cross Plains, Spring Green, Richland Center, Readstown. We're 3 miles past Readstown on the left.

40 miles from Lacrosse - take Hwy 14 east through Coon Valley, Westby, Viroqua. We're seven miles past Viroqua on the right.