



NEWS FROM

SUMMER HILL

Winter/Spring 2011

Alaska “Cedar”

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis - the type native plant has a weeping habit and has become known in the trade as *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* ‘Pendula’. However, there is another form with a different type of “weeping” that is the true “Pendula”. Branches of that plant extend from the trunk of the tree with weeping foliage cascading from the branches. There is also a clone of this plant with somewhat blue foliage.

Therefore, we will list the clones of Alaska cedar as *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*, which is the well known form usually listed as “Pendula.” *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* ‘Pendula’, as described above, has a form similar to a large Norway spruce, and *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* ‘Glauca Pendula’ is the blue form. I hope this works, although I’m sure we’ll have to ask most of our customers which one they really want.

Chinese Pearl-bloom Tree

At last I found a common name for *Poliathyrsis sinensis*. This little known flowering tree was included in a “Cutting Edge Tree” article in the American Garden Magazine so now more people will know it exists. A fast growing tree with large loose panicles of small white flowers (like large white lilac blooms); it can grow to 30’ tall. The one in our garden is spectacular for a long bloom period in late summer when little else is in flower.

Azalea ‘Hot Frost’

Several years ago, Rick Carlson found a variegated branch on a plant of Azalea ‘Girard’s Hot Shot.’ We started to propagate it and now have a very interesting new azalea. It has the typical red-orange flower of Hot Shot and leaves with a white edge. This means “Hot Frost” is a very attractive, small, tidy plant all year long - probably more interesting for its foliage than its orange-red flower.

WOW - What a winter!

Hardy Forms of Southern Magnolia

I often wonder why so few landscapers use some of the hardier clones of magnolia grandiflora. This is a great tree with large evergreen leaves and also large white flowers. A big tree in full bloom is a spectacular sight. Unfortunately, the perception is that it is not hardy in New England. However, we are growing two varieties that will survive very low temperatures – Edith Bogue and one I’ve named Beyesdorfer after the man, George Beyesdorfer, who gave me some cuttings years ago. Beyesdorfer was hurt but survived -18° here in 1980. Two large specimens (plants I gave to friends over twenty years ago) are in Madison and Guilford, Connecticut. A very large Edith Bogue is in Branford, Connecticut. The secret to having a good looking tree is breaking the winter wind and if possible, shielding the tree from winter sun which can desiccate the leaves. We also grow Bracken’s Brown Beauty, which is better known but not as hardy as the other two.

Franklin Tree

For years now some of our customers, knowing we grow a very wide variety of plants, asked for Franklin Trees (*Franklinia alatamaha*.) Knowing that it is somewhat tender (it was discovered in north Florida) we stayed away from growing it but now I have relented and we have a good supply of *Franklinia* coming along. It is a beautiful tree with great interest for real plant lovers as long as they are aware of its limitations – soil should be damp but not too wet and although I’ve seen large specimens in Middletown, CT, where it drops to -10° and below on occasion, it is limited in hardiness.

I remember in the late 1950’s and ‘60’s we had Januarys with a lot of snow and cold, but this year has even those years beat. As I write this, we have piles of snow almost high enough to ski down.

Snow is one thing but extreme cold for long periods of time worry me more – and we had some of this in early January – low of -14° at our Rockland lot. However, temperatures under poly blanket were about +22° so hopefully we had no damage.

Our key concern now is getting rid of the snow so we can start shipping mid March.

I wrote the above before the last big snow and now, like everyone else, it seems we also have several quonsets that have collapsed. So far only a couple are houses with stock that is saleable for spring 2011 so hopefully we’ll be able to ship most deliveries as ordered.

The optimist in me says a cold January means an early, mild spring.

Times are a Changin’

Twenty years ago – even ten years ago – we were through our shipping season by the end of April with relatively few plants left for customers to pick up after that. Now, however, our “Spring” shipping season continues into late June. Of course quantities ordered are usually smaller but we are prepared to deliver plants to you through the month of June and our Fall shipping season starts in July! **Please call as soon as you need something so we can plan a delivery to your area.**

Summer Hill Nursery, Inc.
 888 Summer Hill Road
 Madison, CT 06443

**WINTER/SPRING
 NEWSLETTER
 2011**

Buy One Get One Free

Mike hates to throw away good plants and it appears our propagation and grafting crews have been more successful than our sales staff regarding certain plants. So we are offering a 2 for 1 sale on many of our conifers hoping to give our customers a chance to offer these plants to their customers at a reduced price.

Abies koreana	2 gal	Picea meyeri	2 gal	Pinus strobus Brevifolia	2 gal
Picea ab. Tabuliformis	1 gal	" pung. Compacta	2 gal	" " "	3 gal
" " "	2 gal	" " Gl. Globosa	2 gal	" " Fastigiata	2 gal
" " "	3 gal	" " " "	5 gal	" " "	3 gal
" " "	5 gal	Pinus cembra	2 gal	" " "	5 gal
" gl. Sander's Blue	1 gal	" koriensis Glauca	2 gal	" " John's Find	2 gal
" " Summer Gold	1 gal	" parviflora Glauca	2 gal	" " Lily Pond	2 gal
" " " "	2 gal	" " " "	3 gal	" " Pendula	2 gal
" mar. Cape Bretton	2 gal	" " " "	5 gal	" " Torulosa	2 gal
		" " Glauca Nana	2 gal		

Conditions:

You must have \$2,000 or more of other material ordered, and order 6 or more of a variety/size (you'll get 12 or more). Orders on hand for 6 or more will be doubled automatically. This offer is good until May 1st or as long as supplies last. See our price list or call us for current prices.

Snakebark Maple

We now have a good selection of snakebark maples. They are small to medium sized trees valuable for their distinctive striped bark as well as good fall color. Acer pennsylvanicum is probably best known but we also have Acer rufinerve, A. capillipes, A. pectinatum 'Forrestii' and we will be adding others as we think they are great standout understory plants.

Cotoneaster on a Standard

If you want to give your customers something unusual and interesting try our Cotoneaster on a standard. Cotoneasters apiculata and hessei are available and will make a focal point in a garden, especially when covered with red fruit in Autumn.

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