

GROWER'S NOTES

State Street Maple

This Maple is always on our “top trees” list at the nursery. It grows consistently in the field throughout fluctuations like drought, floods, extreme cold or heat. We never have any pest or disease issues and we always bring our whole crop to market in a timely manner. This dependable tree never lets us down!

Redpointe Red Maple

Redpointe is our favorite Red Maple variety. It grows fast in our fields, but it doesn't get too “leggy”. The foliage stays dark green all summer and doesn't seem to yellow like other *A. rubrum* varieties. We rarely have any bark splitting issues and generally bring 100% of what we plant to market quickly. The red fall color is outstanding.

Sun Valley Red Maple

This red maple is a winner in our fields! It has a consistent red fall color and is truly seedless. A “grower friendly tree”, Sun Valley has great branch angles and a strong central leader.

Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple

Fall Fiesta is one of our favorite Sugar Maple varieties because it has a consistent fall color and good branching structure. We have a soft spot in our hearts for Sugar Maples. One of our all-time favorite trees is the mature Sugar Maple in our home backyard!

Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry

Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry performs well in our fields. We grow both single trunk and multi-stem versions. It has a slow start as a young plant but it finishes strong. The single trunk form takes a little longer to caliper up than the multi-stem. We love how this tree has something interesting to offer in every season - especially in the summer when the berries are a nice treat in the field!

American Hornbeam

We feel American Hornbeam is under utilized in the landscape. This native tree looks beautiful in every season. It is slow to mature but finishes with a flourish. The muscle-like smooth gray bark catches our attention in the field and upon closer view is quite striking. When the nutlets appear they add an interesting texture and rustle in the breeze. The fall color is among some of the best in our nursery!

Northern Catalpa

Growing Catalpas can be challenging. They come to us as young whips without any branching. They quickly put on caliper, so we have to stay vigilant on pruning them in the first few years. Usually by the second season, they have already grown enough to be harvested and sold. We like the Northern Catalpa because it is a challenge to grow and yields a quick reward. Growing this Midwest native keeps our job interesting!

Common Hackberry

The Common Hackberry is a challenge for any grower. Challenge accepted here at the nursery! We love to watch it take shape in our fields. Each Hackberry needs a little special attention, but with proper prune timing and our great soils, this Midwest native takes its place near the top of our “favorite” tree list.

Eastern Redbud

This industry standard Eastern Redbud is an understory tree that grows vigorously in our fields. Over the years, we have watched Redbuds thrive in drought seasons as well as rainy spells. It doesn't seem to miss a beat with extreme temperature fluctuations either. We grow both single trunk and multi-stem specimens. Each tree is truly unique from the next, and the character of this species really stands out.

Yellowwood

Yellowwood starts growing slowly in our nursery. It takes some patience to get the top to fill in, but once it has a few years to establish itself the Yellowwood ends up finishing as a unique specimen. The tropical feel of the bluish-green foliage set against the smooth dark bark catches your eye in the nursery.

Skyline Honeylocust

This industry standard variety responds well to our growing conditions. Skyline is very resilient and wants to reach for the sky with little training. We have to stay on top of the vigorous growth and generally prune our Honeylocust blocks several times a season to stay ahead of their top growth and make sure the tops stay in proportion to their caliper. Truly a grower's tree, this tree is nothing flashy but always gets the job done!

Royal Raindrops Crabapple

Royal Raindrops is one of our favorite pink flowering Crabapple varieties. We love the clean foliage which looks healthy & disease-free all season. The hot pink flowers glow from across the field in the spring. The canopy grows in a very uniform round shape.

Exclamation! London Planetree

This Chicagoland Grows tree basically grows itself in our fields. It quickly takes shape and develops a full and even canopy. Exclamation! is one of the fastest growing trees in our rotation. At a young age in the field it can sometimes be a challenge to keep the vigorous top growth in check before the trunk has a chance to catch up. But in the end, it always finishes with a picture perfect form and makes quite a statement!

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Swamp White Oak

This Oak responds well to pruning & staking in the nursery. Out of all of the Oaks we grow, we work on Swamp White Oaks the most. As a young tree, it requires lots of staking, un-staking, and sometimes even staking again. But in the end, it always finishes strong and results in a beautiful specimen (unless it's still being stubborn- then you just need to be a little more patient!)

American Dream Oak

Like the name says - this Oak is a true dream to grow! American Dream Oak grows much more uniform for us in the nursery and finishes a little slower than the straight species. The foliage stays very clean, and the bark really stands out compared to other Oaks.

Shingle Oak

This fast growing oak is really eye-catching. Shingle Oak has oblong leaves that stand out among other Oaks in our fields. Virtually pest and disease free, we can count on this oak for the long haul. It is one of the quicker Oaks to come to market in our nursery.

Streetspire Oak

We love the uniform branching and consistent growth of this new columnar Oak cultivar. The leaves always look fresh and the small lobes add a nice texture to the tree. Streetspire grows a little faster and performs better for us in production compared to Crimson Spire.

Regal Prince Oak

This hybrid columnar Oak combines the best of two great species. As a grower, we appreciate the uniformity and vigor of how this cultivar grows. We grow these branched at around waist high so you have the flexibility to use them as a specimen, street tree, or privacy screen.

Kindred Spirit Oak

A hybrid similar to Regal Prince Oak, Kindred Spirit Oak stays much more tight at maturity. At a young age in the nursery, it is difficult to tell the difference between the two.

Heritage Oak

The Heritage Oak takes the top spot for Oaks as a "grower friendly tree" This tree has superior branch structure and always has a strong central leader. Heritage Oak is a fast grower in our nursery, making it stand out as a winner.

Bald Cypress

Bald Cypress is a vigorous grower in our fields. It tends to develop a lot of caliper before height, so our challenge is to stay on top of pruning and structure work so that by the time it leaves our field, it has a good canopy established. We are impressed with how well it grows in both drought and wet conditions.

Redmond American Linden

The old-timer nursery saying for Linden is, "They sleep, they creep, they leap!" That's how Lindens tend to grow for us. At a young age they don't appear to be growing much, and next thing you know we have some beautiful specimens filled out and ready to harvest. Pruning Linden branches is like "cutting butter" - they are soft to cut compared to Oaks.

Princeton Elm

Princeton is the easiest of the Elms to grow. It naturally puts on a good leader and grows with a "cookie cutter" quality. This is one of the vigorous growers in our nursery, and we turn them around rather quickly.

Accolade Elm

Growing Accolade Elm requires patience. At a young age in the nursery, Elms take a lot of work to get a good leader and structure off to the right start. We prune Elms multiple times a year and vigilantly stake them. Each tree has its own personality, so we have to treat every one uniquely. By the time they leave our nursery, they are well on their way to becoming a grand specimen in the landscape!

Triumph Elm

Triumph Elm matures to a beautiful tree, but at a young age in the nursery it takes a lot of work to get it to that point. Patience and consistency are necessary in growing any Elm, especially Triumph. This variety responds well to staking as long as you pay attention to it and stay ahead of its new growth.

Norway Spruce

This is Jamie's favorite evergreen to grow because it's clean and uniform. The needles make for soft and easy pruning. It doesn't grow too fast or too slow - it's just right!

Vanderwolf Pine

We have only recently started growing this tree, but so far we love it. The needle color and texture really stands out. There is a subtle silver stripe on the needle that fools your eye into thinking it's blue, making you do a double-take when looking at it. It seems to grow at a medium speed. Our only drawback is that it's hard to find enough quality starter liners for us to plant out - otherwise we would be growing more of these beauties!