



KAT NURSERIES

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FAVORITE TREES FOR NOW!

It feels good to be writing for The Nurseryman's Soapbox again. I would like to take this opportunity to say hi to everybody in our great industry. Doing things like writing for The Soapbox reminds me of how fortunate I am to be working in an industry with great people that enjoy giving back and creating a better place for all to live. With that said, my name is Chris Casebeer and for those that do not know me, I sell trees for J. Frank Schmidt out of Boring, Oregon and also have a tree farm, Green Valley Nursery, south of Kansas City. I thought I would talk about a few of my favorite trees.

The first tree that I'm excited about is Royal Raindrops Crabapple. This tree is an excellent grower with deep purple cutleaf foliage. The combination of the color and cutleaf foliage sets this crabapple apart from all others. The tree has bright pinkish red flowers with a persistent 1/4" red fruit and orange red fall foliage to give it lots of color. Royal Raindrops has an upright growth habit reaching a height of 20' with a spread of 15'. The tree has shown to be very disease and insect resistant. It is a

crabapple so it is tough and will take the summer heat along with the cold winters. It seems to me that the best old time ornamental trees in our area are still the flowing crabapples so why not plant a new exciting variety.



This next tree, Frontier Elm is a U.S. National Arboretum introduction. It is a hybrid between *Ulmus carpinifolia* (Smooth Leaf Elm) and *Ulmus parvifolia* (Lacebark Elm) giving it good vigor and taking on the best characteristics of both parents. The Frontier Elm is considered small to intermediate in size with both heat and cold tolerance. It has shown to be very disease and insect free including Dutch Elm disease and the elm leaf beetle. With its upright pyramidal habit reaching 30' height

and 20' width the tree is an excellent planting selection for under power lines, along streets or parking lots and in the landscape. Frontier Elm has a small glossy green leaf with nice burgundy red fall color. It is a good grower that is very tough and should be used more in our landscape. Check it out next time you are at a nursery and I bet you will be surprised how good it looks, not your typical old elm.



The next tree that I have been very interested in is a Morton arboretum selection, Acer miyabei State Street. The tree is new to me for we have only planted it at our farm for the last three springs. The State Street Maple is similar to Hedge Maple in leaf and bark appearance but it is a larger tree at maturity that grows faster and is more cold hardy. The tree has a uniform broadly pyramidal habit reaching a height of 40' with a spread of 30'. The State Street Tree has handsome corky bark that develops vertical scales. The bark is beautiful when in contrast with the dark green thick 5 lobed foliage.

The foliage holds later in the fall and then turning yellow. The tree would be an excellent selection for street tree plantings, or a good tree for home, urban or commercial landscapes.



On a final note, I think I better correct myself from a previous Soap Box article. I wrote about Dura Heat birch, the new selection and how much I liked it. I think at this time I must share with you that I think it is a great selection for areas south of Kansas City. In our farms it has proven not to be cold hardy. It may not die but it has shown top die back the last three years for us.

Thanks for reading my thoughts and if you have any questions you can reach me at 913-206-6580 chris@greenvalleynursery.com .

Chris

