



THE GARDENER

400 Gillespie Drive • El Jebel CO 81623 • 970-963-1173

NEW TREES AND SHRUBS

Once again a new spring is at hand and the search for new plant material is well under way. Each season brings on a challenge at this nursery for us to find the new or seldom used plants that will make your garden stand out in the neighborhood.

Sometimes the landscape just needs one great plant as a focal point at the front entrance or in a garden. An item not found in every garden is a specialty conifer. Anyone who has visited Eagle Crest knows that we pride ourselves in our specialty conifers. You'll find our selection of these wonderfully unusual specimens to be among the best in the state. Take for instance the *Picea Abies* 'Hillside Upright' or Hillside Upright Norway Spruce. It is possibly one of the darkest green needled conifers being grown.

'Hillside Upright' is an elegant plant, with an irregular branching habit and stylish enough for container or focal point. Some other great specialties that have been around for awhile but under used are the *Picea Abies* 'Cupressina' or 'Cupressina' Norway Spruce and the *Picea Pungens* 'Globosa' (Globe Blue Spruce). 'Cupressina' has the much desired narrow (fastigate) form in high demand for urban and boundary plantings where a strong vertical accent is desired. It's moderately fast-growing, and can withstand snow loads better than most fastigate types. This vari-

ety is very shade tolerant and may need some protection to withstand our intense sunlight. 'Globosa' is possibly the best known dwarf Blue Spruce and is almost indistinguishable from 'Montgomery'. To maintain the desired globose or spreading habit, prune out any upright or vigorous shoots. 'Globosa' is valuable as an accent or specimen plant with very slow growth habits. We have some Globosa specimens this year that will absolutely bring out the WOW in any landscape setting.



Picea Pungens Globosa
Dwarf Blue Spruce

On the deciduous side, there is usually a wide selection of trees and shrubs introduced each year. But unfortunately our harsh climate limits the selection of material hardy enough to deserve a trial. But here are few varieties that should be given a chance both up valley and especially in down

valley landscape situations.

Berberis thunbergii 'Concorde' or 'Concorde' Barberry is a dwarf globe shaped barberry with deep purple, velvety foliage. New growth is red giving the shrub an interesting accent. Fruit is red and sparse. Its small size makes it ideal for the perennial border or in front of a shrub border. .Ht. 2' sp. 3'. Bailey Nursery introduces *Physocarpis opulifolius* 'Snowfall' or 'Snowfall Ninebark'. This compact Ninebark bears clusters of attractive white flowers that are larger and showier than the species, and appear in late May and

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June in a lovely cascading display. It's a tough shrub for difficult sites including dry situations. Zones 2-7, Ht. 5-7' Sp. 6-10'.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Tardiva' or Late Panicle Hydrangea, has large (6") showy white flower clusters which turn pink late August. Zones 3-8. 6-8' ht. x 8-10' sp. Fruit tree fanatics, how about the Waneta plum from the South Dakota Experiment Station? It produces well the first season after planting and is one of the best market plums. Fruit is large, red, sweet, juicy, and of good quality. Zones 3-8. 10-15'

Ht. x 10-15' Sp.

This is just a taste of new plant material on its way to a nursery near you. There are quite a few others but only enough room to write about the few mentioned. Please keep in mind many of the plants mentioned are hard to find and are only available in limited quantities, so call ahead for information about arrival dates and availability. As for most of these varieties once they're gone they're gone until next season.

Happy planting.

Senior's Day
is every Tuesday!

Receive a 15% discount on your purchases if you are 62 or older. Since we know you don't look your age, please tell the cashier.

April's Quick Tips

- Feed lawns organically with Bradfield's Corn Gluten or Luscious Lawn fertilizer
- Start up garden ponds now, ask us how.
- Cut back any perennials left standing over winter
- Sharpen garden tools and mower blades.
- Survey the landscape for winter damage due to excess snow, deer or rodents.
- Start planning new landscape/garden projects. We're here to help.
- Come visit the nursery and get inspired for spring.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ORIGINAL GREEN INDUSTRY



Gardening has always been a green activity and unless you've been living under a rock you know that everyone is talking about how to be greener.

At Eagle Crest, we are examining our own practices and working on ways to improve our own environmental impact. For example, the newsletter you're holding now is now being printed on recycled paper (and please share it with a friend and then recycle it).

Even more importantly, we are finding better products for you to use to improve your green factor. For example, even though we do still carry some traditional fertilizers and pesticides our list of organic and natural products is continually growing. We are very excited about the Fox Farm family of products – from Happy Frog and Ocean Forest potting soils to an organic fertilizer for any need. You'll be amazed at the difference feeding your soil with these products makes on your gardening success, even the taste of your vegetables!

Many of our seeds are certified organic as are most of our herb and veggie starter plants.

We've got containers made from rice hulls that are fully compostable – a great plastic alternative. Our line of organic composts and mulches combine to feed your soils rather than depleting them. Most importantly, we've got lots of plants especially trees.

Planting trees is perhaps the greenest activity of all.

If you want to learn more on this topic, please join us at our sustainability workshop on May 17th at 10 am.

WHITE PINE WEEVIL



White Pine Weevil is the most detrimental insect to evergreens in a landscape setting. It produces a very conspicuous injury to our beloved Colorado Spruce. Throughout our green industry experience in the Roaring Fork Valley, we've seen white pine weevil inflict more damage to spruce than any other insect in a landscaped setting. As homeowners, many of you have one or more beautiful spruce in your landscape and this article will teach you how to diagnose and prevent this pest from disfiguring your favorite evergreens.

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Typically, white pine weevil causes injury to the terminal growth of spruce and many varieties of pine. The affected leaders wilt into a 'shepherd's crook' form while the needles slowly brown, die, and drop. Fortunately, most damage from pine tip weevil is only aesthetic, but due to the injury, affected trees have stunted growth and often develop multiple leaders creating a misshapen bushy appearance.

To control any insect it is best to understand its' lifecycle. The weevil winters over in the soil and fallen needles under the tree. As the temperature increases in April/May (above 70 degrees) adults emerge and make their way up the trunk where they feed and lay eggs on the terminal. Adults weevils stay on the tree for the remainder of the summer, feeding intermittently in the crown of the tree. The eggs the adults lay, under the tree bark, slowly develop into legless larval



White Pine Weevil larva



Damage to the trunk

grubs that begin to feed on wood underneath the bark. These larvae tunnel downwards producing the 'shepherds crook' appearance and the terminal die back. While the larvae tunnel downward they produce a chamber beneath the bark within which they pupate. After transforming to the adult stage, the new weevil adults chew their way to the surface, producing exit holes about an eighth of an inch across.

Now we know what the pine weevil does. It burrows down the trees terminal eventually girdling the top and killing the top of the tree. We also know how to identify it. Look for new growth wilting in a 'shepherds crook' fashion. Later in the summer the exit holes will also become apparent. So how do we protect our favorite evergreens from this noxious insect?



Terminal Damage

In the past, the standard approach to managing this pest was to spray insecticides in spring to cover the terminal. We now find a soil drench of the systemic insecticide imidacloprid (Bayer's Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed) is our best and easiest defense. This application should be made in fall to allow sufficient time for uptake of the insecticide to the terminal in spring. If a systemic application wasn't done in the fall we recommend that a spray application of a permethrin (Hi-Yield 38 Plus) be applied in very early spring to the trunk and leader (approximately when the Forsythia bloom), with a follow up treatment approximately two weeks later.

Trees in the landscape that have already fallen prey to pine tip weevil can be restored with pruning. Simply remove the dead terminal, then select a new leader (the most vigorous side branch) and pinch the terminal buds of the other side shoots. We recommend staking up the new terminal to ensure its position as the new dominant leader.

If you would like to add a friend –or– be removed from our mailing list, please call 970.963.1173.



GET ALL THE DIRT ON GARDENING AT OUR SPRING SEMINARS

•Saturday April 26th 10 AM

Tree Selection

Join Vince Urbino of the Colorado Tree Coalition as he tours the nursery and talks about trees for special sites. He'll recommend the best trees for under power lines, high altitude areas, wet areas, the best species for low water usage and more.

•Saturday May 10th 10 -12AM

KIDS workshop

It's Mother's Day weekend, wouldn't it be fun for the kids to plant a pot for Mom. This was a fun day last year so let's do it again. Members of our staff will assist the kids in putting together something they will be proud to give to Mom. This is an open ended workshop- you can come any time in the morning and get to work. The class is free but there is a \$10.00 fee for materials. Age limit 4-12 year olds. Parents, please be present at the nursery during the class.

•Saturday May 17th 10 AM

Sustainability in the Landscape

Yes that word is being thrown around a lot these days but gardening has long been one of those activities that benefit the environment. Let us give you some ideas that you may not have considered in becoming more "green". We will discuss organic growing and other practices that will improve our impact on the environment.

•Saturday May 24th 10 AM

Container Gardening For All Seasons

Back by popular demand are members of our staff to share their experience and design ideas to create beautiful and colorful containers. Be prepared for this hands-on workshop by bringing in your favorite pot to fill or purchase one from our great selection. Of course we'll help you construct a beautiful summer container but we'll also give pointers on updating your container for fall and even winter.

•Saturday June 7th 10 AM

Vines and Groundcovers

Harriet McMillan of Echter's in Denver is back again. She was here 2 years ago to popular acclaim -this time she'll talk about the best groundcovers and vines to use in those special spots in your landscape.



Looking Ahead to May

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE/SUDDEN ASPEN DECLINE
THE COLORS OF NATURE
VINES 2008

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Monday-Saturday 8 AM-6 PM • Closed Sundays until May

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