

LOCHSLOY ACRES BONEHEAD MOVES

Summer Meeting
June 2023

What I've learned about VEHICLE PARKING

- The bigger the parking lot, the more trees I can sell
 - IF you have 20 parking spots and it takes 1 hr from arrival to departure, you can sell up to 140 trees in a 7 hr day. With 40 parking spots, you can sell up to 280 trees.
- The bigger the parking lot, the fewer trees I can grow
- The shorter the time to get the tree, the smaller the parking lot you need
 - If customers are spending time doing non-revenue generating activities (throwing frisbee, petting farm, sitting by fire), they will stay longer. Instead of 1 hr to buy a tree, you get 1 ½ to 2 hrs or longer. Don't encourage this!!
- The fewer the distractions, the faster customers leave
- Service can save time in the lot
 - Providing tree tie-down helps a lot IF your personnel are trained to do the job.

What I've learned about the TREES

- **What species to plant**

- Stick with the major species! 21 species was a BAD idea!

- **How many to plant**

- Be consistent, e.g. plant 500/yr, sell 500/yr.
- Don't plant 2000 one year and none the next 3 yrs

- **When to plant**

- As early as possible to get the roots established before the droughty summer but only when the soil is ready! Not frozen, not standing water

- **Where to plant**

- Plant where each tree species wants to be, NOT where you want it to be!

Fraser Fir

- Native to North Carolina
- 8ft tall in 7 years
- Good demand
- Likes partial shade
- Low drought tolerance! (Small root ball, fibrous roots dry out)
- Needs good drainage
- Only light shearing necessary
- No late growth
- Has been our most profitable tree
 - Will this change with the warmer, drier summers?
 - Last two years have seen a lot of loss
- Treat for aphids

Noble Fir

- Native to PNW
- 8ft tall in 10 years
- High demand
- Needs good drainage
- Drought tolerant
 - Doing really well these last two years – best they've ever looked!
- Sensitive to CSNN
- Treat for interior needle blight EVERY YEAR!

Grand Fir

- Native to PNW
- 8ft tall in 10 years
- Moderate demand
- Tolerates wet soil
- Sensitive to CSNN
- Treat for Interior Needle Blight and aphids
- Drought tolerant
 - Also looking really good during the last two years

Nordman/Turkish Fir

- Native to Black Sea area
- 8ft tall in 11 years
- Increasing demand
- Heat tolerant
- Early bud break (risk of late frost damage)
- Needs moderate drainage
- Watch for aphids
- Tends to be wide at the bottom – needs to be heavily basal pruned

Douglas Fir

- Native to PNW
- 8ft tall in 6 years
- Low demand - sells late in the season
- Tolerates wet ground
- Shear late (September) - shearing required
- Treat for Swiss Needle Cast & wooly adelgid
- Tolerates long dry PNW summers

WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT CHEMICALS

- **What to use**

- Identify the problem to be solved and find a chemical that targets that problem.
- Make SURE the chemical you're using is listed for the tree species you're treating. Nordmann especially.

- **How much to use**

- Read and follow the label instructions to get the appropriate concentration! 'Close enough' is NOT good enough

- **When to use**

- E.g. When you SEE interior needle blight symptoms, it is TOO LATE to treat it! The damage occurred during a damp spring the previous year when fungal spores landed on unprotected new growth. THAT's when you need to treat!