Select Trees Root Enhancement Process

To whom it may concern:

The following is root enhancement and growing process information that we employ at Select Trees.

Each tree from a particular own root clonal cultivar at Select Trees is genetically identical including root systems. This means that trees are genetically predictable in the nursery and in the landscape. The only significant remaining variables are growing conditions in the nursery and in the landscape.

The Select Trees Root enhancement process includes a strict ongoing culling procedure which eliminates inferior trees. Any time during the growth of a tree from propagation to final harvest, if a tree has a problem or is suspected of having a problem with the root system or planting depth, the problem is corrected or the tree is culled.

At Select Trees all trees are field grown in heavy red clay soils and irrigated with drip irrigation. All trees are grown in no container larger than one gallon.

Year One

* Root softwood cutting in 4 in. Rootmaker propagation cup. This is a specialized cup with multiple baffles, steps, and holes designed to minimize circling roots and encourage root branching.
* Grow rooted trees in the propagation cup until they have a strong flush of new growth and multiple roots have emerged from the Rootmaker cup.

Year Two

* Transplant young trees from the Rootmaker propagation cup directly to field on 3 ft spacing or into a Rootmaker 1 gallon container. This is a specialized container with multiple vertical ribs, steps and holes designed to minimize circling roots and encourage root branching. Timing varies with variety and original cutting date.
* Transplanting is done by hand to assure that soil above the first root is removed to establish the root flair at the correct depth.
* Growing shoot is staked with 3 ft. bamboo to establish the central leader.
* Grow in Rootmaker 1 gallon until multiple roots have emerged from the holes in the sides of the container.

Year Three and Four

* Plant the young trees from the Rootmaker 1 gallon container into field soil, spaced 3 ft. apart.
* This planting is done by hand to assure soil does not cover the first roots by more than ½ in.
* The young trees are staked with a 5 ft. fiberglass stake to develop a straight central leader.
* All trees receive water from a drip irrigation system.
* Grow the young trees into large starter trees in field soil.
* The fiberglass stake is removed and a bamboo splint is used to maintain the growth of the straight central leader.

Year Five and Six

* Transplant the starter trees from 3 ft. spacing to average of 7 ft. spacing to grow into finished size landscape trees.
* The harvesting of the starter trees is done using a specialized machine that root prunes 100 % of the roots with a vibrating cut blade to assure root branching in the soil at the new field location.
* Planting is done by hand with special attention paid to the planting depth to assure that the first roots are not covered by more than 1 in. of soil.
* The young trees are staked only long enough for the new roots to establish in the soil, typically 6 months or less.

Year Seven to Eight and Beyond

* The trees grow on field spacing into landscape size and are harvested with a mechanical tree spade beginning on average in the seventh to eighth year.
* Central leader is continually developed using bamboo splints moved higher up the leader as the tree grows taller.
* Pruning is done to develop a full, structurally sound canopy.
* The clear trunk is raised according to the size development of the tree.

Harvest

* Landscape size trees are harvested with a specialized mechanical tree spade designed to capture the most roots in a broad root ball.
* Based on this root enhancement process, the cut roots at the edge of the root ball will branch with new growth to establish rapidly into the soil of the landscape site.

Best regards,

Corey Browning

Select Trees