



Wilson's Nursery



**Jack Frost better stop nipping at our toes,
nose, and all of those who don't want
winter yet to come! Quit nippin'! We have
things to do!**

We've got plants that need to find their way into the ground.

We, as a team, have a great quantity of good quality plant material ready for your late-season job. Give us a call at 952-

393-2762 or email your orders to:

orders@wilsonsnurseryinc.com. We will get your items pulled, loaded, and delivered!



End of Season B&B Sale (EXTENDED)!!

Elm, River Birch AND MORE: 40% OFF!

CLICK HERE FOR THE LIST!

Another week, another encounter with Call wandering about the heel-in.

He says, "Well, Matt, these trees are pretty nice, right?" I say, "Yea, not bad at all."

Well, then, "They should be planted and not sitting here all winter."

Whatever your needs this Fall, let us know. We are here all season long waiting to serve you the best we can. We will do our best to make sure you have what you need for your next site!



Connie's Corner

Get Crabby!

by Connie Kratzke

Crabapples are beautiful, ornamental trees that can take just about everything Mother Nature dishes out. They adapt to tough locations and require very little maintenance. That said, I have noticed a pretty sharp decline in their sales during the last few years. Some of that has to do with their perceived messiness and I think that's too bad. Many newer releases have persistent fruits that won't turn into a treacherous slurry of applesauce. Others are sparse producers. Those that generate abundant fruits are superb food sources for wildlife. Forms vary from traditional to columnar, clump, weeping and lollipop. These different shapes provide options for specimens, screens and shade. Choose your flower color, fruit type and growth habit and it's just as fun as ordering from Qdoba! What's not to love? We're sitting on a few really great varieties, so I am going to take this opportunity to tell you about them.

First, I have to talk about 'Red Jewel™' (Malus 'Jewelcole') because it's my pick of the bunch. My favorite elements are its shiny, red, persistent fruits. While I realize they are the most controversial ornamental feature, they really shouldn't be. I have pictures of 'Red Jewels™', taken in March, showing fruits from the previous season. As soon as the Robins return, they consume their welcome feast. Fall foliage is often an attractive gold, which really sets off the vibrant fruits. 'Red Jewel' has very practical dimensions, reaching 15 feet in height and about 12 feet wide. Big enough to provide some shade, but narrow enough to fit comfortably in the average front yard, this tree is easy to accommodate. In spring, it greets its audience with starry, white flowers. Think of it as a more compact, disease-resistant, 'Donald Wyman'. As with many newer cultivars, 'Red Jewel™' develops good branch angles and seldom produces water sprouts.

'Velvet Pillar™' (Malus 'Velvetcole') is a reliably good tree that's been around for a while. Consistently sparse fruiting, it's a great compromise for those who love the appearance of crabs but dread the mess. Extremely tidy in form, 'Velvet Pillar™' has ascending branches that form a dense, oval crown of about 20' x

12'. That's a great size for screening a second story deck. Bronzed purple leaves have a soft, smooth texture. They flatter the large, mauve flowers that precede them. Overall, it has good disease resistance. While it does have some scab susceptibility, that can typically be prevented by minimizing stress. Water regularly during hot, dry periods and use mulch to keep soil temperature and moisture consistent.

'Emerald Spire®' (*Malus x adstringens* 'Jefgreen') is quite an interesting option. At six feet wide and 15 feet tall, it's typically grown in a low-branched column. This creates interesting potential for use as a living fence. 'Emerald Spire®' does produce quite large, burgundy fruits that tend to drop simultaneously. That makes for easy clean-up by fastidious lawn owners or foraging wild game. Fruit tends to drop right around deer hunting season. Large, single flowers are really quite unusual. They tend to display several shades at once, as red buds open into fuschia flowers that fade to white. A canvas of thick green leaves with bronze overtones stays clean and holds up. In the fall, foliage puts on a brief, gold display. Hardy to zone two and nearly impervious to disease, 'Emerald Spire®' is a solid choice for the cabin up north. That said, it's also tolerant of pollution and pH adaptable. Both qualities can be an asset in the urban landscape. Wherever it's planted, this tree should be protected from rutting bucks and roving bunnies until its bark is thick and rough. That's a good rule of thumb for any fruiting tree.

'Louisa' and First Editions 'Ruby Tears™' (*Malus* 'Bailears' PP22,001) are the other two Crabs we have in abundance. 'Louisa' reminds me of a flowing, pink gown when it's in bloom. Think cotton candy and Barbies. It defines pink. While this tree is far from new, 'Louisa's' disease resistance is just as good as modern varieties. Persistent, gold fruits take on a lovely blush as the season progresses. 'Ruby Tears™' is another weeping variety with great characteristics. Burgundy bark, buds and fruits compliment mauve flowers. Foliage has rose-blushed, silvery undersides that make this little tree shimmer. Both 'Louisa' and 'Ruby Tears™' are broader than they are tall. 'Louisa' is the bigger of the two, at 15' tall and 18' wide when mature. 'Ruby Tears™' grows around 10' x 15'. Weepers are a natural choice near water features, but they look good in other settings, too. They can steal center stage or be belles of the border. Why not screen your patio with graceful garlands of fragrance? So what if you have to sweep up a bit now and then? What better way to get out and enjoy your surroundings?

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Summer Hours of Operation
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm

Open House (save the date!)
September 28th

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