



Wilson's Nursery



Drone photograph of a beautiful sunrise over New Germany, MN taken by Andy Wilson

What're they up to over at Wilson's these days?

Well, quite a bit! The season may be coming to a close, but this warm weather has kept those looking to do late-season tree plantings calling in!

B&B trees are still available, so please reach out if you would like to pick some up or have them delivered!

We work very hard all season to provide you with the quality plants and service you have become accustomed to at Wilson's Nursery. This time of year that work continues, and we really get down to the nitty gritty to make sure we are fully prepared to satisfy your needs in 2024.

The projects are varied over the winter. We are working on production (please check out this week's Connie's Corner below), sourcing of material for 2024, inventory management, pricing, systems development and everything in between, so that we are ready for the coming season.

We appreciate all of you who choose Wilson's Nursery for your plant material needs. It is your support that allows us all to work in an industry we greatly care for and love! We promise to provide you with the best product and service we can for years to come!

Let's meet up and talk about your 2024 season!

Please reach out and let us know what we can do to be a better partner for your company in 2024. We've found that by meeting in-person with our customers, we are able to unearth things that sometimes aren't as discoverable with a short phone call.

We would love to have you out here for some lunch, for a ski on the trails we will be grooming come snowfall, or to sit and enjoy some coffee.

Please give me (Matt) a call at 612-990-4073 to set something up. It would be great to see you and make sure you are all setup come Spring!



Connie's Corner

Smoke and Sap

by Connie Kratzke

The merriest month has arrived! Despite the lack of white, 'tis the season! My husband and I took advantage of the nice weekend and decked our exterior halls. Inside, our tree is au naturel. A lighting complication halted efforts prematurely. Luckily, our Balsam needs no bling. Aroma alone is ample justification for its presence. I want to go make some hot chocolate just so I can smell those two holiday scents together. I'm not going to get all Mariah Carey or anything, but I might scan for Rudolph. You probably think I'm sitting in my P.J.s sniffing things and getting sentimental full-time now, but I'm still quite busy at the nursery.

From creation to consumption, we deal with everything tree related. First thing in the morning each day, someone has to feed the beast. This beast takes the form of a wood burning boiler and heats the floor of our propagation house. Twice a day it needs a heaping helping of wood, which has to be cut and split. Steve has been busy building up reserves. The smell of the wood smoke is intense, yet cozy. When I open the furnace it billows out, filling every pore of my Carhartt. I take a little with me into the prop. house where a very different, yet compatible odor dominates. "Sticky, Sappy, Juniper Juice" is what I'd call it if it were a candle (or an I.P.A.) Hundreds of cute little cuttings perfume the air with resinous richness. The propagation process creates a most seasonally appropriate ambiance.

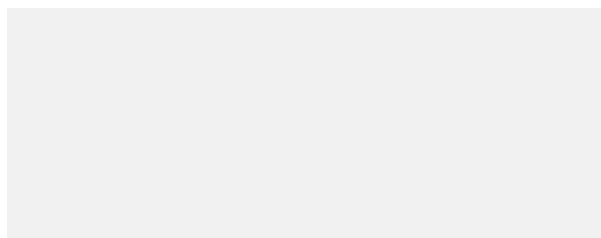
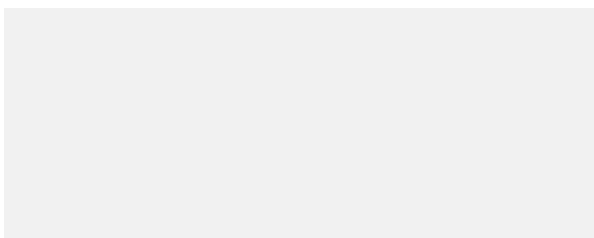
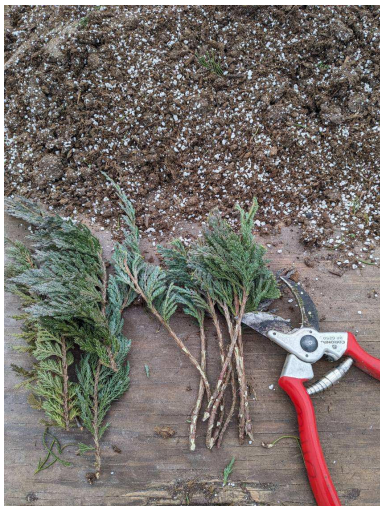
Right before we cover the container plants each fall, hardwood evergreen cuttings are taken. Clippings are labeled and stored in the cooler until they are "stuck" in 38 flats of high porosity mix. To do this, we strip the lower needles off each small branch; creating tiny wounds. Each injury becomes a potential root location. We dress prepared stems with rooting hormones and push them firmly into their cells. Once we finish the Junipers we're working on, we will hunt the fields for sacrificial Arborvitaes. Some will be cut down and others just trimmed.

While each flat of plants is given an initial watering, the “Electronic Leaf” takes over after that. This invention is simple in principle, yet profound in concept. Imagine a teeter-totter with one mesh “seat” and no occupants. When the irrigation runs, water weighs down the mesh end. As the mesh dries out, the “seat” slowly rises back up to its starting point. That action triggers the system to mist.

Soil must stay moist, not damp. Foliage needs supplemental hydration until roots develop and adequately convey water. Fans are kept running for circulation and biofungicides are utilized for disease control. A thermostatically controlled, automated roof opens and closes to maintain temperature. The entire process is well dialed in, but the learning never stops. Last year we recognized the need to get our flats up off of the floor. This year we built frames with welded wire fencing and laths. We’ll gain new insights every time we do it. Methods and processes can always be refined. We’ll learn from other nurseries, MNLA seminars and trade magazines. Taking it all in is the only way.

Next summer the rooted cuttings will be transplanted into 15-trays. The following year, they will move into either #2 or Super 2 pots. The #2 pots will spend one more season above ground before being planted in the field. The Super 2’s will be sold as is when they earn their rank. This is how we make the evergreens- that is the unpatented ones.

There is a nice coating of snow on everything now. While it won’t be around long, I appreciate it setting the mood for me because I needed inspiration. Glancing around the house for another creativity trigger, I spot my new skis! They have everything to do with winter activities at Wilson’s. There is much more to our story than meets your weary eyes during the busy season. This is a sequel full of twists, turns and a few hills. The smoke, sap, snow, steam and picturesque scene are all part of a grand design. Stay tuned to learn more about our plan for recreation and repose.





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Winter Hours of Operation
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***For quote requests and faster assistance, please email us at: orders@wilsonsnurseryinc.com**

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