



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

JANUARY 2006 Volume IX Issue 1

January Meeting

Date: Saturday January 28, 2006

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Program: Our speaker will be **Vicente Garcia**, a very knowledgeable botanist with Brokaw Nursery. He will speak on the current status of the clonal rootstock (rootstock on rootstock) method. This is a very modern method of grafting.

February Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2006

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Program: **Scion Exchange and Grafting.** Please see the message for **Bob Goldsmith** on details for this meeting

SCION EXCHANGE

Bob Goldsmith

This year we will be doing things a bit differently from past years. Our scionwood exchange will be in February, instead of January, because nurseries do not ship rootstock until after Feb. 1st. We want to have **rootstock available at the meeting for you to purchase (about \$1.00-\$1.25 each.)** We will try to have **apple, pear, and peach/plum/apricot rootstocks available. This way everyone can go home with their own grafted trees!**

In place of the usual grafting demonstration **we will have grafting coaches from among our membership to help small groups of you achieve your grafts.** Since we have to order rootstock in lots, and well in advance of the meeting, we will **retain all scionwood left over at the end of the meeting. Volunteers will then graft it to any surplus rootstock not used at the meeting. All successfully grafted plants will be retained by the Chapter, and we will have a giant plant sale next Sept/Oct to raise money for our treasury**

*****Because of the popularity of this event, and the limited resources we will have available, participation in the scionwood exchange/rootstock grafting will be limited to Los Angeles Chapter members-in-good-standing only (fully paid dues.) If necessary you may update your status at the meeting by seeing our treasurer, Karen Payton, prior to the event**

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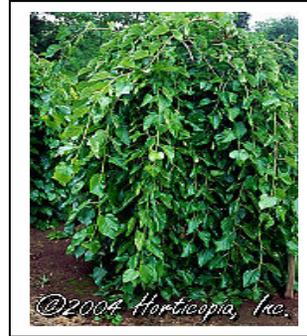
Scionwood needs to be gathered by participants while it is still dormant, probably early January to early February. After that time, when the buds become active and start to push open, it is no longer suitable for grafting. Due to this, it is imperative that proper storage methods be used to keep the scionwood fresh and dormant. In this way, the wood can be stored for many weeks and still grafted successfully.

- Wood should come from clean, disease-free and non-patented trees.
- Select straight wood from last year's growth and cut as near to our scionwood exchange date as possible.
- Wood should be 1/4" – 3/8" diameter (pencil size) and contain several buds.
- Cut to lengths that fit easily into a ziplock-type bag. Cut with a slanting cut on the top (distal) end and flat cut on the end that would have been nearest the trunk (medial).
- Bundle by variety in a moist paper towel(s) and place in a ziplock-type bag, leaving a slight opening in the ziplock bag for the wood to breathe. Make sure that the towel(s) stay damp as long as the wood is stored.
- Label outside of bag w/ fruit type and variety, as well as any additional information you feel is pertinent (i.e. minimum chilling hours; needs pollinator; vigor; zip code where successfully grown, etc).
- Keep scionwood bag in vegetable bin of your refrigerator until the morning of the exchange. Be careful not to let the scionwood freeze!
- At the exchange, please wait to make your selections until directed by the chairman.
- Please limit your selections to two of any variety, until all the groups have had their opportunity. Then feel free to go back.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER CHAIR

We have been notified that CRFG is facing an insurance rate increase in 2006, a portion of which will be the responsibility of the local chapters. They will soon be announcing how much that will be, on a per-member basis. We may need to have a slight chapter dues increase to cover the additional insurance cost, or maybe we can finance it out of our chapter reserves or future fund-raising events. This will be a discussion item on next meeting's agenda. More information will be forthcoming, as soon as it is available to us

Bob Goldsmith



WEeping MULBERRY

—
Morus alba var. 'Pendula' –
Moraceae
Donated by: Fullerton
Arboretum and planted 2002

(r.f.-07)

Article written by Alfredo Chiri

Common names: Weeping mulberry, common mulberry

This cultivar is a female dwarf, deciduous tree, which features a weeping foliage.

The Weeping mulberry, a white mulberry variety, is a small to medium-sized shrub or tree up to 15 feet tall, round topped with a spread of equal size. It has drooping foliage, with a trunk attaining 12 inches in diameter.

The leaves are alternate, variable in shape, lobed or unlobed, dentate, 8 inches apart on fruiting branches. Leaves are smooth above and dark green. It is glabrous along veins beneath the leaves and light green.

Flowers are small and greenish, in dense spikes to 1/2 inch long with 4 sepals and 4 stamens. The flower pistils have two styles, maturing onto an aggregate fruit of drupelets 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, white or reddish yellow, before ripe. Fruit is sweet but insipid. Seeds are brown, 1 to 1.2 mm long.

The 'Pendula' cultivar is a female tree, which produces fruit, while its male version, the 'Chaparral' cultivar, does not produce fruit. Both cultivars can be used as ornamentals because of their weeping foliage.

Weeping white mulberry can be propagated from seeds, but primarily it is by grafting and, as an alternate method, by cutting. Propagation by cuttings is done during spring while propagation by grafting is done during late winter, using a *Morus alba* rootstock.

Seeds should be treated with camphor water before sowing to prevent disease. Seeds are placed in a thin layer of soil after sowing, and the beds should be kept moist. Seeds germinate in 10-15 days, depending on the season. When the seedlings are about 6 inches tall, they are thinned and weeded.

Transplanted seedlings that are 6 inches tall are used as bushes, while seedlings that have been allowed to grow up to 3 feet and trained are used as trees.

Weeping mulberry will tolerate drought and occasional wetness but prefers soil that is well drained, loamy or clay with a pH of acidic to alkaline.

Weeping mulberry will grow well in full sun, partial sun, and partial shade. Avoid fertilization with high amounts of quick-release Nitrogen. Prune to shorten branches since plant has weak wood. Trees are susceptible to wind and storm damage.

The white mulberry is so named for the color of its buds rather than the color of its fruit. Fruitless cultivars can be used in more extreme environments where few other trees will grow.