

# Spring 2011 Tree Special!

To celebrate our 60th year in business, we're offering

## "Buy 2, Get 1 Free"

specials on all shade trees in stock!

Here are some of the great options we have available:

- Canada Reds
- Greenspire Lindens
- Weeping Cherries
- Flowering Crabs
- Red Sunset Maples
- River (or White) Birch
- Skyline Locusts

**Hot Buy!**

Swamp White Oaks  
Whitespire Birch  
Autumn Blaze Maples  
.....**And many more!**



*Red Sunset Maple  
Great Fall Color!*



*Flowering Crabs  
Spring Beauties!*

3860 W. 127th St. Alsip, IL 60803 Phone: 708-389-8119 www.williamquinnandsons.com

Alsip, IL 60803  
3860 W. 127th Street

**WILLIAM QUINN & SONS**



# William Quinn & Sons Newsletter

## Spring! 2011

### Snow By the Numbers

*(And What it Means for Your Plants)*

Anyone living in Chicagoland knows we had another bad winter this year. From the eight foot snow drifts to the snow piled so high it looked like it would never melt, we experienced true history this year in Chicago. So instead of reading a recap of what we all lived through, let's take a look at the raw snow numbers, and what it's going to mean for our plants this year (# Info Source: Chicago Sun Times).

According to the National Weather Service, this winter we saw 57.3 inches of snow from December to the end of March. For years we'll all be sharing stories of "The Great Chicago Blizzard" of 2011. People were even selling t-shirts reading "I survived the Great Chicago Blizzard of 2011!" One thing we do appreciate, though, is our customer's understanding of the hardships our plow drivers and hand crews experienced while clearing the snowfall from the blizzard.

#### But what does all this mean for our plants?

With the heavy amounts of snowfall, and the giant snow piles created this winter, expect to see some damaged plants. Broken branches, limbs, or leaning hedge rows will be very obvious at this point in the spring. Salt damage will also be easily visible.

Surprisingly the amount of snow cover we had this winter is going to be very beneficial to their health. Being surrounded by snow protects plants from potential wind burn and moisture loss – two major problems that evergreens deal with yearly.

But if you're thinking "wow that snow melted quickly!", you're not alone. We had two instances where the snow completely melted this year. Expect to see plants blooming earlier because of it. Already we're seeing spring bulbs higher than normal for this time of the year, forsythia blooming a week or two early, and soon we'll start seeing magnolias, cherries, and crabapple trees flowering.

*It's beginning to look a lot like spring!*

<b>1</b> Ranking achieved of total snowfall for month of February in history of Chicagoland	<b>900</b> Vehicles stranded on Lake Shore Drive during Storm	<b>190,000</b> Homes without power during the blizzard
<b>65%</b> Amount of country covered by snow in February / March		<b>\$38M</b> Amount the blizzard cost the City of Chicago to clear snow
		<b>22,000</b> Feet of cable replaced by Commonwealth Edison during Blizzard
<b>70MPH</b> Strongest wind gust recorded this winter during snow storms	<b>500</b> National Guard troops activated during Blizzard	<b>3</b> Ranking Blizzard achieved as worst snowfall in Chicagoland history
		<b>20.2</b> Total recorded inches of snow during Blizzard at O'hare

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# Cathy's Corner

Wow, we sure are glad to say goodbye to another wild winter! Spring has been off to a slow start, but as temperatures slowly rise there is a hint that good things are coming with the small buds on the trees and greening of the grass.

We have already begun our spring clean-up process. The foremen have been instructed to report any visible winter damage. Spring walk-thrus are also being scheduled now. As a rule of thumb it's a good idea to wait until the shrubs have leafed out so everything can be assessed. Please feel free to contact me to schedule your spring walk-thru.

Each year we strive to improve our service to our customers. As always, our foremen wear the striped shirts. This year, each crew has an assistant - or second in command - that can be distinguished by their khaki colored shirts. If you need anything, or have a question, they should be able to assist you just like foreman. Most of our crews have remained the same otherwise. It's always easier to begin the season with seasoned employees that know the properties they're working on.

Continuing this year is our points reward program. Let us know if your crew has performed an outstanding job. It's always good to hear the positives, and it lets the crews know you appreciate their hard work.

This year we're celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To give back to our great customers this year, we will be holding a monthly random drawing for \$600 in "landscape cash" that can be used for trees, plants, or other landscape work on your property. This offer is valid only to our regular maintenance customers. Prizes won have no cash value, and cannot be transferred. Only one prize per customer. After winning, your property's name will be removed from the drawing. You will be notified after the drawings if you are the winner!

As always, we appreciate your business, and welcome back all returning and new customers! Feel free to contact us any time with any landscaping needs you have.

**We look forward to another great season!**

*Cathy*

## The Spray Front

Visual signs of snow mold damage emerged this year after the snow melted. With the incredible snow coverage we had for months, the disease was able to survive much longer than normal in our area. Do not confuse snow mold damage with dog damage. Dog Damage will not only have a very unique smell, but also dark green circles around the outside of the brown spots.

With the spring fertilizers being applied to our properties, I expect most of the snow mold damage to fix itself. Dog damage will need to be repaired, it does not fix itself. If you believe seed or sod is needed, feel free to call me at the office for an estimate on reseeding/sodding snow mold damaged areas.

This spring we'll be returning to our more traditional fertilization program - using two applications instead of a combined single application. The first application, which

will likely have been completed by the time you read this, is our pre-emergent with fertilizer. The second application, which will be applied in early May, is our post emergent weed control with fertilizer.

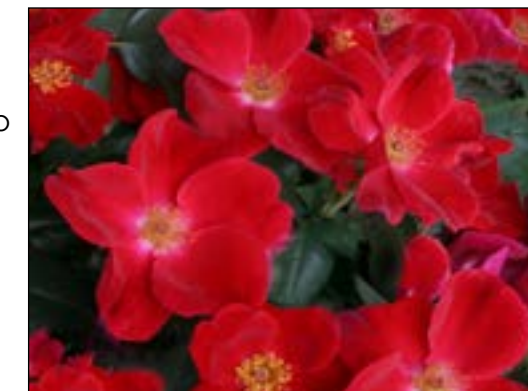
Spot spraying applications for weeds will be made as usual throughout the summer. We've broken the applications up in order to provide a safer environment for our customers. Two split applications means that less chemical is present on the lawn at any given time, and much safer for pets, children, and the environment in general.

This also means more turf fertilization with no additional costs. It's a win-win!

- Brian Hornung, Lawn Tech Manager

# A Rose By Any Other Name...

Knockout roses and Double Knockout roses have become the standard "go-to" rose in the landscaping industry. They're disease resistant, have beautiful color, and bloom more often than traditional roses. They're also self cleaning, which means no need to dead head during the summer. Did I mention that they're drought tolerant?



**Close up of Red Home Run Rose**

Introduced to the national market by The Conard-Pile Company, the Knockout family of roses simply took the landscaping industry with force. Cultivation was plentiful which kept the pricing at reasonable levels. The one problem with the Knockout roses, however, is that only one company can authorize growth of them. And guess what? They want a higher price for each rose sold.

Simple economics dictate that in order for the price to go up, quantities available must go down - and that's exactly what we're seeing happen this year. Wholesalers quickly sold out of their spring stock, and word is that Knockout roses won't be available again until late summer, if at all this year.

While we will still have limited quantities of Knockout, and Double Knockout roses, we're trying a new variety this year - the Home Run Rose. The Home Run rose, sold in both pink and red flowers, is an offshoot of the Knockout rose family (a sibling if you will). It's being sold as completely resistant to black spot and powdery mildew - something that the Knockout rose is only partially resistant to. It is said to flower longer, look cleaner, and shape better than the Knockout rose.

We're always skeptical when a new plant touts such a lineup of features - admittedly we were skeptical of the Knockout rose when it first came to the market. Our skepticism is why we're stocking only a modest number of Home Run roses until we're sure they live up to their claims! While the Home Run rose has been in development and testing for over a decade, we like to make sure a plant lives up to its hype before we back it!

So this year expect to see less Knockout and Double Knockout roses on store shelves - and if you do find them, they will likely be more expensive than previous years. And don't forget to check out the Home Run rose!

## When is it Safe to Plant Annuals?

Garden centers are always quick to stock their shelves with summer annuals. It's not uncommon to see impatiens hitting the stores in mid April. But does that mean they're safe to plant at this time?

One thing about annuals, and other tender plants, is that they do not like the cold. One quick, hard, frost and those annuals are likely to never fully recover. We suggest planting annuals when there's minimal chance we'll see another frost until late fall.

**Mother's Day** is the best guide for safely planting annuals in our area. Historically we've had frost after this date, but who wants to wait until June? If it looks like we are going to get a quick overnight frost after your annuals go in, you can protect them by covering them with a thin sheet of landscape fabric for the night (No plastic!).

So go ahead and get those annuals in the first few weeks of May, but listen to your local weatherman about overnight temperatures!

