

General Manager's Message

By Tom Shotzbarger

February 18, 2003 was a special day for Tomlinson Bomberger. Nearly all of our coworkers, 57 in all, were present when we rolled out our company's Vision Statement:

"Maintaining your lawn and landscape as our own."

We asked their help to determine the values that would support our mutual Vision. Here's what we all decided were the three most important values to support our company's Vision:

"Integrity - Teamwork - High Quality"

Now, with a common vision and stated values we will continue to improve our services. We will continue to improve our communications. We will continue to improve our relationships. We will continue to improve our company.

To meet and exceed expectations in all of our relationships and business dealings is a worthwhile goal; the unending pursuit of success. However, being realistic, we must admit any shortcomings and work to make things right. This includes our internal procedures as well as our interactions with clients and vendors. Not only do we ask our coworkers to uphold the values of integrity, teamwork and high quality, we ask the same from our vendors and clients. Some call it 'partnering'. Simply, it requires an earnest and mutual effort to communicate honestly, work together cooperatively and produce results that exceed expectations.

Considering that we are all members of the same team, we ask for your help to deliver our vision and adhere to our values.

Co-Workers Become Certified Arborists



Don Becker



Bob Kandratavich



Jeff Wike

Don Becker, Bob Kandratavich and Jeff Wike have recently passed the certification testing from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) to become ISA Certified Arborists. Certified arborists are individuals who have achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through many years of experience and who have passed a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's leading experts on tree care. Certified arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification. Therefore, they should be up-to-date on the latest techniques in arboriculture.

Printed on recycled paper

NEWS You Can Use

Volume 3 • Issue 1

Spring 2003

A Publication Exclusively for Customers of Tomlinson Bomberger Lawn Care & Landscape, Inc.

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LAYOUT/DESIGN: BARRY BRUCE & COMPANY

Merit® Insecticide Protects Ornamentals

Many trees and shrubs will not survive without properly timed applications of pesticides. We treat thousands of trees every year to control a broad range of insects that cause



damage to ornamental trees and shrubs. In the past two years we have increased the use of a soil-injected insecticide called Merit® to obtain season-long control for many insects.

This product has been widely accepted in our industry, not only for the control it gives for insects, but also for the fact that it can be used at very low rates making it one of the safest products on the market. Low rates mean a lower risk to people as well as

other non-target pests while providing the protection we need from damaging insects.

When the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid problem started to appear in Lancaster County,

our approach was to design a spray program that would target the insect when it was susceptible to pesticide applications at certain times of the year. Usually this involved three sprays rotating the insecticide product. With proper timing and precise application techniques, we could keep this insect under control thus saving the hemlocks.

The use of Merit® in controlling the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has proven to be a valuable, yet safe weapon in our

pest control arsenal. **One injection into the soil around the dripline of the plant will provide season-long control for a variety of insects.**

We can eliminate problems associated with spraying (improper timing, bad weather, poor coverage and drift) with one injection of Merit® annually.

Merit® is a systemic insecticide, which means that it is translocated through the vascular system of the plants and controls insects once they start feeding on it. It is important to place this product in the soil very early in the Spring, or even over the Winter. This will allow enough time for the material to move through the plant and be in place when the leaves or needles emerge in the Spring. In addition to hemlocks, birches and other trees and shrubs will benefit from selective use of Merit®.

An Alternative for Rhododendrons

Have you been looking for a plant to replace a rhododendron in your landscape? An alternative for the home landscape is *Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken' or commonly known as Cherry Laurel. This hardy, broadleaf evergreen shrub can be used where Rhododendrons suffer in full sun. 'Otto Luyken' Cherry Laurel has a compact habit and matures to 4' high by 6' wide, but can easily be maintained 3' high and 4' wide. The leaves are 4" long and 1" wide and are a shiny dark green. Flowering is heaviest during Late April and May with white, upright 2" to 5"

long spikes. The flowers are very fragrant.

This plant can be used individually or it works well as a low hedge. It works great in combination with Hollies, Boxwoods, English Yews and most deciduous shrubs. It performs best in part shade.

Another cultivar is the Skip Laurel,



Prunus laurocerasus 'Schipkaensis'. This upright form has the same characteristics as the 'Otto Luyken' Cherry Laurel, but can reach 10' high and 4'-5' wide. This plant can be used as an

individual plant or as a hedge for screening. It's an alternative to arborvitae in some situations.

WE DO IT ALL.
We design. We plant. We maintain.

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