



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2013

Issue 10

Ash Die-Back/*Chalara fraxinea*— at the Arboricultural Associations pest and disease road show Ash Die-Back was discussed—the forestry commission are hoping that people will carry out bio-security measures such as: removing infected Ash leaf litter by burning or composting, keeping any infected material on site including logs, burning/composting/burying twigs. Symptoms: www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-92AHUK

News:

This is our charcoal kiln which is filled with small diameter logs cut from of branch-wood removed during tree surgery.

The process is to slightly overfill the kiln with seasoned wood then light a fire which has been laid at the base. The fire is controlled by damping down the vents so that it only chars the wood. When this has finished (approximately five hours), the chimneys, which have been swapped around between vents to keep an even burn, are removed and the whole kiln sealed with soil/turf and left for 24 hours. If all

has gone well there is about 15-20kg of charcoal when the kiln is opened up.



Niwaki:

We are interested in Japanese Pine pruning and have started to grow some pines in pots using formative pruning and training by tying with string and planting at an angle to encourage forms that are found in old trees such as bent stems and low branches.

The young trees will be planted out in the field and under cut annually to promote a fibrous root system and make transplanting easier. These will be suitable for garden plantings where a tree is required to add height and form and will have the advantage of remaining a manageable size, most no larger than 4m. We are using Japanese red pine (*Pinus densiflora*), and Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). In our glass-house we have some seedling Japanese red pine (*Pinus densiflora*), Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) and Japanese white pine (*Pinus parviflora*) which will be potted on, pruned and trained and eventually planted out.

We have also pruned mature pines in the Japanese style and have had some good results on Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) where we



Niwaki continued:

have removed dead wood, thinned and shortened back branches to give a layered cloud pruned effect, or to see the structure of the tree.

Before:



After:



Before:



After:



In Japan gardeners grow trees to an idealised form. They use a small range of plants to create atmosphere influenced by the natural landscape, Shinto and Buddhism. Trees are often made to look older by training branches to be level or the trunk to be twisted or bent. The actual pruning methods are similar to ours in

the west in that one prunes to a bud but the techniques are different and when it comes to pine pruning can be quite time consuming. Pines may be worked upon twice a year in May and September/October. In May new buds are thinned, leaving two growing in a v shape facing outwards. The buds will develop candles (long, soft new shoots) in early summer which are then pinched out halfway down their length before the new needles develop. In the Autumn the new short growth is thinned out leaving shoots in a v shape, this growth gradually gets more dense as branches grow out and shoots are pinched back.

We are also growing some Yew (*Taxus baccata*) and are training them into interesting shapes such as balls, pyramids and tiered wedding cake forms suitable for planting in formal gardens or as a focal point.

Phyllyrea latifolia is an evergreen with small dark green leaves that responds well to hard pruning and can be cloud pruned into rounded balls forming a good contrasting shape in a shrub border.

We are also growing some Evergreen Oaks (*Quercus ilex*) from seed collected locally and will use them for training into mushroom shapes called fukinaoshi as they also respond well to hard pruning. Evergreen Oak also make a good hedge and is particularly good in coastal areas as they can toler-



ate salt laden winds. Here are some of the shears, scissors and saws we use for this kind of pruning work. Trees and shrubs pruned

in the Japanese style add depth to a small garden as they appear to be further away.

Next Issue: Biosecurity . Let us know if there are any items that you would like us to cover regarding trees and shrubs.