

Fall Fundamentals

Tips and Discussions from Mirai Stream August 22, 2017

PERSONAL NOTES:

Fall Work: For tree in refinement - Lodgepole Pine

The fundamentals of how to take growth and make it work for you - with every season of growth you lose definition and you have to re-define.

Big thing for this work is:

When to pluck, why you pluck, what to pluck and shoot selection.

Clean line between pads is lost as tree grows and this time of year is when we handle that growth.

In Japan Mr. Kimura started the first-year apprentices with cleaning up the needles hanging below the silhouette of the branch. The bottom of the branch is the only place we can establish a clean delineation between pads.

Branch shows a bunch of twiglets stacked on top of each other. Last year didn't need wire because the shaping was dictated by larger structural wire. However, phototropism changes the position of that growth and now we have to make a decision either:

We remove the upper stacked branch

Or the lower branch and lay this one down as the new exterior tip of the branch.

OR we take this and rotate it so we turn them into laterals

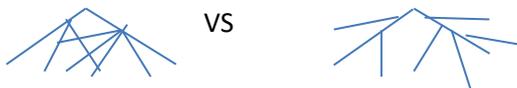
But we want to maintain maximum density for this level of refinement and will add some wire to the structural wire already there and utilize the wire – as you learn to use less and less wire to accomplish the same amount of work – and rotate the buds/twiglets and still get the buds in the right aesthetic.

Learn how to clean FIRST!

So always make sure you maintain needle mass in the design of branch – a pine design is reflected in the tufts, not having buds over the top. You don't wire each piece. The interior piece is already up.

There are 4 pieces – wire down to branch, out to middle with one wire and coming to the end of the middle one and bringing it up – controls all four pieces.

Kimura creates a natural soft fluff and we want to reorganize the growth out – separated – our eyes pick up on needles crossing!



Upper one sitting outside of canopy: lowered down into the canopy to address interior body piece of foliage.

This time of year is optimal for short needle single flush pine: right now interior needles are being shed – for lodgepole – so you can do two things:

- Cleaning out the old/dead needles
- And clean up the shape

Minimal way to handle it [pinching in Spring for single flush pine]

NO for Ponderosa – is just starting to show color change and beginning process to shed needles so timing is different.

Indicator: Is it dropping its 3rd year needles or not? "I'm ready to let go of old needles" for Ponderosas need to wait!

Same for Scott's pine, mugo pine, Shore pine, pinyon pine, Zuisho white pine, Limber Pine ?

Pinus contorta 'Latifolia' – lodgepole (Shore pine – thinner needles and smaller bark plates)
Smoother, grayer, less thick in its bark formation
Needles are slightly thicker and flatter
Buds are very different
Also, aggressive, strong, short needle, flexible, dark green, back buds profusely.

Need to be careful of young interior buds – these buds emerge from adventitious buds and NOT from needle crotches.

When you bring up a branch you need to preserve the natural tropism of the branch arc – we need to keep the swoop and cleanliness of the shape not exaggerated up. Preserve the maturity of the branches, the refinement – it is age reflective of the natural environment.
This is the focus for a tree in refinement!

Colorado Blue Spruce

You do not clean up the bottom – needles are radially distributed.

Hemlock and Douglas Fir

Cleaning the bottom is totally legitimate.

How we prune Single flush Pines:

Shoot selection

Prune back to a bud, back to a secondary branch, or back to a structural branch.

Those are the only pruning decisions we can make right now and have a positive response of transition of strength in the tree.

One more area of cleaning needles is where too many needles in junction or crotches on two end twigs.



Take out;

have a fairly large amount of old needles around our shoots

Re-distribute needles

1. clean bottom silhouette

2. Take out large coarse pieces to create a new definition in the branch

Right now pines are making transitions from summer dormancy into fall vascular growth.

Fall Awareness: Fall: create, improve, and maintain, lots of work – a very exciting time of year.

Increase in vascular growth

Changes in watering [needs]

Fall fertilization

And seasonally specific things we start to do during the fall season to allow us to have success.

1. Trees are adding a tremendous amount of tissue – wire can cut in.

2. Water is an active thing – time to look at the tree more carefully

3. Especially need to be concerned with elongating species – they are adding more tissue than any other genera of trees – they expand at a more rapid rate.

Areas that have a lot of movement of resources naturally expand – thickening occurs at points of a lot of elongation of foliar mass moving more water and nutrition at:

Apex; tips of branches; areas of large mass of foliage, in the structural components with intense vigor – not necessarily the finer pieces.

4. Fall time – trees using more water and soil drying more quickly – need to up our watering during this time.

5. Fertilizer Application – single most important time of year to be supplying fertilizer to our trees. Nutrition needs for increasing vascular tissue plus preparing for the push come spring for growing the new tissue.

Apply consistent, heavy feeds, to prepare the tree for winter hardiness and then Spring new growth.

If there is only one time possible for your fertilization program, this is the time of year to do it!

