



## **The 2021 Plant and Tree Sale**

# **Winter Thoughts**

As winter marches on we are planning for a nice, warm, sunny Plant Sale weekend on May 15 & 16. While we will likely still have to deal with Covid-19 protocols, we are hopeful that we can work this out as a safe and fun event. Details are being worked on but I would like to let you know that this year we will be offering some unique and interesting tree species that you will not find at most garden centers. Since late last year I have been securing small numbers of selected tree species that have great landscape qualities. In the next few months I will be highlighting one tree per month and describe in detail the nice qualities they offer for your garden collection. My intention of course is to get you to buy these little gems and support our mission. But also it is important to learn about some species that are overlooked in our landscapes and add to the diversity of our garden collections. Stay tuned.

This winter appears to be a bit more normal than last year and cold temperatures is sometimes a good thing. Due to climate change, insect pests are expanding their range from the south and this has serious implications for our native trees. Hemlock woolly adelgid continues creeping north and pine beetles are establishing on Long Island which is killing off pitch pine. When we get colder than normal winter temperatures the mortality rate of many of these pests increases. That means less bad insects when the sun warms us up in Spring. So a few days with temperatures in the single numbers or lower is good for our native trees.

Stay on top of your deer repellent sprays, especially if we get lots of snow which reduces deer food sources. Apply the repellents on warm winter days when the temperatures are in the 40's or better with no chance of wet weather for at least 12 hours. Always follow the label instructions.