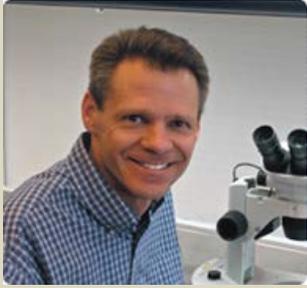


## Course Focus

### Bill Hoch - HORT 231– Woody Ornamentals



Woody Ornamentals (HORT 231) is a pleasure for me to teach, as woody landscape plants have always been one of my primary interests and are at the center of most of my research. First and foremost this course must instill the fundamentals that are requisite to a competent professional in the green industry, specifically, knowing the identity, culture and uses of common woody plant species. However, I also use this course as a vehicle to teach concepts of plant ecology, physiology and pathology, and how these apply to plants growing in the landscape.



*Rod Walters, MSU Arborist, demonstrates the use of a truck-mounted tree spade to the HORT 261 class.*

This course meets three times each week for two hours, organized into weekly cycles: a lecture to introduce new plants and address each plant's ornamental features, landscape uses, cultural requirements, diseases and insect problems; plant walks to review information and familiarize students with multiple specimens of each plant; and a test. Repetition is central to this course, as all information is randomly tested

multiple times throughout the semester, building the information pool as the semester progresses. This course also provides three teaching assistants with valuable teaching experience and the opportunity to refresh and broaden their knowledge of woody plants.

I continue to augment the content each year, and this past year I added a pruning lecture and lab that gives students experience with the important concepts underlying the training and maintenance of long-lived woody plants. I now also organize interested students into a study group that prepares for the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association's Certified Plant Professional examination. While this course instills the fundamentals of identifying, using and maintaining woody landscape plants, I think my most important goal is to have every student leave this course appreciating woody plants as much as I do!