

**2005 International Maple Society Symposium, Vancouver, Canada**  
**Virtual Silent Auction**

Plant-related conferences, such as Maple Society meetings and symposia, have successfully used auctions to raise funds. Unfortunately, the nature of international plant event requires that we recognize limitations imposed by the various plant protection regulations. Gone are the days when a simple phytosanitary certificate would suffice for the importation of plants on a delegate's return to his or her home country. For that reason, we are planning a virtual auction at the 2005 Symposium. A virtual auction allows us to have symposium delegates bid on auction items that originate in their home areas, where phytosanitary regulations or import duties are not involved.

If you would like to donate plants or anything else maple-related to our auction, and you are outside of the British Columbia area, we invite you to supply us with digital images of your contribution. We request that donors include the cost of shipping (within a specified area) and arrangement of the shipping in their donation (e.g., a Michigan nursery donates a plant in a gallon pot and agrees to cover the cost of shipping anywhere in the continental US). On the other hand, material that isn't subject to plant protection regulations (jewellery, books, artwork, clothing, etc.) can be brought to the symposium and auctioned live (as it were) in the same way.

We will make poster-sized images of the donations and post these at the symposium along with silent auction bid sheets and details of the donation (such as shipping limitations). Please be generous. All proceeds go the North American Branch of the Maple Society. Please send all material to:

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2005 International Maple Symposium Chair  
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