

TECHNICAL SESSIONS
Tuesday Morning, December 11, 1979

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society convened at 8:30 a.m. in the Ballroom East of the Sheraton St. Louis Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri.

PRESIDENT HALWARD: Welcome to the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society. It is my great pleasure this morning to welcome you all here. At last count we had 420 registered. This is the twenty-fifth meeting that I have attended since joining and everyone has been a unique experience. I am looking forward to meeting those of you who are attending for the first time and I am sure you will be as excited as I was 25 years ago. This is a unique learning experience for everyone. It is a great opportunity to learn from the top propagators, teachers and authors in the business. Participation has always been the lifeblood of our organization and I hope you will get actively involved. We have a number of guests: Bruce MacDonald and Roger Butler, Great Britain and Ireland Region; Bernard Ferotin, France; Bruce Briggs, Western Region; Robert Ward, Southern Region; and Duane E. Jelinek and Ernest Tosovsky, American Association of Nurserymen. At this time I would like to recognize Wayne Lovelace who has put the program together. We have a very full program this morning and I will now turn the program over to our first moderator, Dr. John Wott.

**CONSTRUCTING A NEW PROPAGATION FACILITY FOR
SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY**

DON O. SHADOW

Shadow Nursery, Inc.
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In planning this new propagation facility I tried to incorporate the many ideas which I have seen and thought about for several years.

The outside propagation beds were built from round peeler core posts (8 ft × 5 in). Being the same dimension throughout, they connect well with strapnail fasteners. The beds are 48 feet long by 4 feet wide with 3 feet isles. Future plans call for underground electrical supply of 24 volts in the beds.

The beds are covered with a wire frame made from 6 by 6 in square construction wire, cut every 13 squares, to make a cir-

cular frame without any additional bending. The frame's rough ends are bent, and the whole frame is dipped in a non-fiber asphalt roofing compound diluted with enough gasoline to make it more workable. After drying, the frames are placed on top of the beds and fastened with a long staple at each corner. The staples work much better for me than a bent nail. The above procedure gives a good smooth circular surface on which shade cloth or plastic may be attached.

Our new 80 ft greenhouse was divided and attached to each end of the 40 ft headhouse. This way I can maintain each section at a different temperature. The greenhouse was orientated in a N-S direction to take full advantage of the sun. The headhouse is sufficiently heated each day the sun shines by having a glass house at each end. All side walls of the greenhouse and headhouse are 4 ft underground to take advantage of the earth's warmth. The loft of the headhouse serves for storage of plastic, shade cloth, microfoam, etc. It also has a frosted skylight to furnish natural light when looking for supplies. A trap door allows for easy access when storing or removing supplies.

We have built a cutting keeper which has a mist nozzle in the top. The keeper is 7 ft tall and 4 ft square with 4 levels. The levels are covered with 1/2 inch hardware cloth. The keeper is covered with plastic and has entry from 3 sides for easy access and to prevent workmen from climbing on the base to obtain cuttings in the back. All excess water drains into a pan rather than onto the floor.

To take better care of our seeds, we made seed drying tables and covered them with 1/4 in hardware cloth. This type of construction allows for air movement and proper drying.

The propagation tables are covered with white formica to help maintain a cleaner area for grafting and cutting preparation. I feel we need to improve our sanitation in all areas of propagation.

EVERETT ASJES: Are the posts penta treated?

DON SHADOW: No, copper treated.

PETER VERMEULEN: What type of heat are you using under your grafting benches?

DON SHADOW: Hot water heated with propane.

FRANCIS GOUIN: How are you holding your poles in place? Also do you fumigate and with what?

DON SHADOW: The poles are kept in place just by making a little trench. We fumigate with methyl bromide and we use the same wire structure and clear plastic that we are going to

use during propagation. After fumigation we roll it back for aeration and cutting insertion. This saves on plastic.

ED MEZITT: Do you move the poles to put digging machines under the cuttings?

DON SHADOW: No, but I plan to do this because the poles can be moved easily.

RICK ALLRED: Would you elaborate on your conifer grafting?

DON SHADOW: We use a side graft, lay them on a 45° angle in the bed, and cover with a plastic tent. I am not sure about the temperature. It is between 21° and 27°C (70 and 80°F).

EFFICIENT PRODUCTION IN PROPAGATION

PETER ORUM, JOHN WILDE, DIETER SCHUMACHER
and GARY KNOSHER

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Maybe some propagators have a green thumb or a white root or some other special knack of the art. But efficiency does not come from green thumbs. It comes from analyzing, organizing, developing methods and pushing your crew and facilities to yield their utmost.

What does this mean to us anyway? Making our propagation departments more efficient means that we will produce more plants at a lower cost per plant with the same effort we are already putting into it! And producing more plants at a lower unit costs means more profit. Profit is the lifeblood of business. And that is just as valid for commercial propagators as it is for General Motors. The more profit we propagators make, the more new and better facilities we build, the more propagator meetings we go to, the more plant excursions we go on, the more plants to produce for an expanding market, and the more people we put to work. So the more profit there is, the more life there is. It is high time that we commercial propagators get to look at ourselves as businessmen first and plant lovers second, and that we act accordingly.

We must take a critical look at the various segments of our operation, analyze how they function and figure out what should be done. (In parentheses I should say, that if any of us concludes that all is so well that nothing should be done, I suggest we have somebody else look at it.) A good hard look at our propagation functions (without stubbornness and prejudice)