

## EASTERN REGION QUESTION BOX

The Question Box Session was convened at 9:50 a.m. December 14, 1990 with Ralph Shugert and Bruce Briggs serving as moderators.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: How do you root *Picea glauca* 'Conica'?

DAVE BAKKER: I presented a paper on that in an earlier meeting. [EDITOR'S NOTE: See volume 33:415-417 for details].

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Has anyone had much success rooting beech cuttings?

BRIAN MAYNARD: We have successfully rooted beech using our etiolation technique. [EDITOR'S NOTE: See volume 36:599-604 for details].

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Propylene glycol, recreational—vehicle water system antifreeze, has been recommended as a carrier for IBA in the previous 2 years' meetings. I found that one brand, "Easy Going RV Antifreeze", is 75% water (even though the list of ingredients doesn't list it). It also has potassium hydrogen phosphate and a pink dye. I am sure that other brands are also full of unwanted materials. Before using RV antifreeze I recommend that it be cleaned up by distillation. The water boils off at a little over 100° C and the propylene glycol boils around 175° C.

BILL BARNES: Yes there are variations and you must follow the above suggestion or find a brand that is suitable at 50%. It should be a 50% propylene glycol mixture, not 40% as some are. IBA will not dissolve in 40% but will in 50%. This product is not labeled so it is a trial and error process.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Is the Cole Nursery selection of *Ilex verticillata* 'Nana' the same as 'Red Sprite'?

NED RADER: I believe that it is the same plant.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following response to this question was mailed to me after the meeting by Richard A. Larson. "One of the most comprehensive treatments of *I. verticillata* and cultivars occurred in an article by Dr. Michael Dirr, "To Know Them Is To Love Them" [*American Nurseryman* 8/1/88]. *Ilex verticillata*

'Nana' originated from Hampden Nurseries, Hampden, Massachusetts. True to its name 'Nana' is a compact selection of the species attaining a height and spread of only three to five feet. Beside its low growing habit it produces heavy crops of bright red fruits that are visibly larger than those of the species and most other cultivars. Dirr notes that 'Nana' is also sold under the names 'Red Sprite' and 'Compacta'.

Our observations at The Dawes Arboretum confirm this fact. We currently have 'Nana' and 'Red Sprite' growing next to each other. The groups appear identical in fruit size, color, and growth habit.'

MODERATOR BRIGGS: What is the exact time of year you take your French tarragon cuttings and do you use any rooting hormone?

GEORGE KIMMEL: Use softwood cuttings.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: What is the description of *Viburnum* 'Emerald Triumph' in the Center for the Development of Hardy Plants poster in the Exhibit Room?

VOICE: I believe that it is a *Viburnum lantana* selection.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Bill Woodrubb. In discussing the own-root *Gleditsia* propagation, what cultivars were used in your work?

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Refer to his paper in this volume.]

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Does anyone know of a good treatment or propagation technique to deter latent alternaria and other stem rots from cropping up in flats of *Dianthus* × *allwoodii* cultivars? Stock appears to be clean, is stuck in straight sand in a fog polyhouse and Banrot-treated. Often cuttings root and die shortly thereafter.

GEORGE KIMMEL: Benlate should control it.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: How long can a plant be listed as patent applied for (PAF)?

ELWIN ORTON: PAF has no legal status but simply tells someone that you have applied for a patent. They can propagate that plant but if your patent comes through they cannot sell the plant and would be held liable for any plants sold.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Does applying Casaron for weed control inhibit rooting of boxwood cuttings?

RALPH SHUGERT: At Zelenka Nursery we have had no problem.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: What is the safest herbicide to use after transplanting rooted deciduous cuttings from plug trays to sandy loam liner beds? Ronstar and Devrinol give reasonably good control, but I suspect growth suppression. The biggest weed problems are chickweed and common groundsel. Would Treflan or Surflan be better?

RALPH SHUGERT: Rout out of the bag at 1/2X (50 lb/A), water in thoroughly (1/4 in., seal).

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Murray Alward. Your mix is quite open and I doubt subject to much root rot. If 'Wichita Blue' does not get *Phomopsis* tip blight, why do you treat with Benlate so often?

MURRAY ALWARD: Because we are successful and it has always been part of our treatment.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Carol Glenister. How tolerant are nematodes to low substrate temperatures in overwintering pot liners under tunnels? Do they go into a dormancy situation if they do not have a host also at low temperatures? Should a grower apply nematodes as a prevention?

CAROL GLENISTER: I am in favor of applying as a preventative in the fall. The nematodes will be present in the spring and timing will not be as critical. They can tolerate the low substrate temperatures.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Question for Carol Glenister. Could taxus bareroot liners be dipped into a nematode solution just before planting and have a lasting preventive action for black vine weevil?

CAROL GLENISTER: The nematodes will last one year in the soil. The liners can be dipped and I think it will be a good idea to try. You will need to prevent the nematodes from drying out as that will kill them. The root will also grow out from the initial treated area.

DAVE BAKKER: What about using a gel as a carrier for the nematodes? [EDITOR'S NOTE: Dave Bakker is planning to test the gel idea].

MODERATOR BRIGGS: What is the most hardy form of variegated sweetgum?

VOICE: I believe that the 'Variegata' cultivar is one of the hardiest forms of the species. We grow it in our arboretum.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: When growing pyracantha in containers, what practices should be followed in order to get a heavy fruit set?

BRUCE BRIGGS: You have to have 2-year old wood to get berries.

PHILIP MOREAU: The secret is to use very large cuttings and run them through because you will only get berries set on 2-year old wood.