

“Seed Propagation” Question-Answer Period

DAVE HANNINGS: What is the final recommendation for germinating the *Lewisia cotyledons*?

CHRISTIA ROBERTS: You need high-quality seeds. Soak them in 10 mM GA solution for 24 h. Sow them into plugs. Pre-chill them at 0 to 5C for 4 weeks. Germinate them in a greenhouse kept at 15 to 18C and expect 85% germination.

BRUCE BRIGGS: We've noticed that seeds sown in vitro tend to have slower shoot growth than those germinated the conventional way. Have you seen this?

CHRISTIA ROBERTS: I didn't compare outside versus axenic germination. I germinated all my seeds axenically to observe germination without any disease or rotting and I was looking for a consistent source of high-quality explants for tissue culture studies.

MARTIN GRANTHAM: I know that cytokinins can be of use in getting seeds to germinate under suboptimal conditions given that any dormancy had been satisfied and I wondered whether you tried them with the *Meconopsis*.

CHRISTIA ROBERTS: I did not try it. I would stay with the use of gibberellins since the secondary dormancy in *Meconopsis* is a thermodormancy and GA is effective under those conditions.