

Plant Propagation — Industry and Development®

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INTRODUCTION

Propagation is one of the oldest skills; it has been practiced since man stopped roaming the earth and started settling in one spot. Seeds or cuttings were germinated or rooted, plants sold or grown on, and eventually a finished plant became a valuable commodity in the economy. Perhaps at this moment the man thought this was the future of this activity.

As everybody knows the world has changed and will continue changing very rapidly. One hundred years ago the entrepreneur was the farmer or grower; during the last century it became the manufacturer, and in the new century it is the idea maker who is changing the world.

Entrepreneurs such as Walt Disney, Richard Branson, and Howard Shultz, among others, have changed the way things are done in their respective industries; none of them saw the opportunities in horticulture. If they had, would they have done things differently?

None of these personalities are with us for this presentation; all we can offer is conjecture on how they would have developed the propagation industry.

One way to achieve these ideas and knowledge, and to make it a reality, is by being a part of established associations, first at the local level and from them to national and international status. By doing this, our International Plant Propagators' Society was formed.

HISTORY

The International Plant Propagators' Society (I.P.P.S.) is a select group of plant propagators now organized internationally. An original group of approximately 70 propagators met in Cleveland, Ohio (U.S.A.) in November 1951 to form our Society, which has now grown to more than 2400 individual members, affiliated in one of eight regional organizations.

The main reason for the International Plant Propagators' Society is to promote, search, and share information about the art and science of plant propagation. The organization structure is in regions, based on plant interest and groupings of similar climate zones, rather than on political or state boundaries. Actually, our Society has eight regions: Australia; New Zealand; IPPS Japan; Scandinavia; The Region of Great Britain and Ireland; and three in the U.S.A: Eastern Region, North America (includes eastern part of Canada), Southern Region of North America., and Western Region (includes western part of Canada; with one Potential Region in Southern Africa (The Southern African Potential Region).

Each region is self-governing with a President, two or more Vice-Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, Editor, Historian, committee members with direct responsibilities, and an International Director who represents the region on the International Board.

I.P.P.S. has a strong recruitment policy of expansion with objectives to recruit members from other areas of the world and to create new regions where they do not yet exist. It offers members access to a wealth of experience and knowledge.

MOTTO

The motto of our Society is “To Seek and To Share.” This motto makes our society both unique and beneficial. Members are expected to seek and share information with one another by attending meetings and taking the opportunity to talk with the experts in propagation and place articles in I.P.P.S. publications. These have been the strengths of I.P.P.S. as it enters its 5th decade.

Although the Eastern Region, North America attracts members from all over the world, most of its members are from an area spanning the U.S.A. states from North Dakota to Colorado in the west to the East Coast, and from the provinces of Canada in the north to the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland in the Mid-Atlantic Region to Missouri.

The membership is comprised of propagators from small family businesses as well as huge nursery and greenhouse operations. Educators and researchers at universities and botanic gardens and arboreta are represented as well. The Region is strengthened by the diversity of its membership. Members are strongly encouraged to become actively involved in the Society through the presentation of papers or posters, committee membership, and service on the Board of Directors.

BENEFITS

Membership in the I.P.P.S. Eastern Region brings many benefits:

- Option 1 members receive a copy of the *Combined Proceedings International Plant Propagators' Society*, a hardback bound book or CD of more than 600 pages that includes all the papers presented at the Regional conferences around the world. The Proceedings include articles on plant propagation techniques old and new, plant introductions, integrated pest management, specialty plant production, growing media, and much more.
- Members have access to an online membership database directory. This valuable resource lists detailed information about each I.P.P.S. member worldwide.
- In addition, Eastern Region, North America members receive three issues annually of the *North American Plant Propagator* newsletter. This newsletter details the activities of the three North American Regions and presents recent research in plant propagation as well as current Regional activities and news.
- Members may also attend the Annual Meeting at a discounted rate.
- Membership in the Eastern Region, North America provides a wealth of practical educational and technical information as well as fostering long-lasting friendship among those dedicated to its ideals.

To finish this presentation I want to thank to the International Plant Propagators' Society Eastern Region Committee for this opportunity to participate in this conference, especially to Steve Castorani, Vice-President Eastern Region, North America, who spent lots of his time to make this conference a success and include Spanish-language sessions. As a Human Resources Manager at Princeton Nurseries in Allentown, New Jersey, and as a member of the Horticultural Advisory Committee at Mercer County Community College, I will do everything possible to put in practice the knowledge learned in this conference. Princeton Nurseries has their doors open to anyone at any time who wants to continue with our motto “to seek and share.”