

## SESSION VI: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS®

**Verl Holden:** Have you found a mycorrhizal fungus that colonizes *Daphne*?

**Andrew Riseman:** We haven't looked.

**Dave Adamson:** How do you fill the long, inflated polyhouses we saw in the pictures? Do you walk them in from the ends or use conveyors?

**Ross Merker:** For propagation we fill from the ends. Weather permitting, we'll plant inside the house so it's a short distance to push the plants.

**Nevin Smith:** We've noticed virus-like symptoms on the plants we grow, and I wondered whether anyone has done research on virus elimination in *Daphne*?

**Andrew Riseman:** None that I know of. Are you working from stock plants, taking cuttings?

**Nevin Smith:** Yes, we are, and we've made a rigorous effort to maintain "clean" plants by segregation. However, in the nursery setting, with routine, constant pruning, reinfection occurs.

**Andrew Riseman:** I don't know of anyone who's doing virus indexing on *Daphne*. Seed propagation can be used to rid plants of viruses.

**Steve McCulloch:** I know of *Daphne* virus research that's been conducted in New Zealand and published in the Proceedings. My question is regarding *Daphne* Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS). Have you looked at the many different interspecific hybrids of *Daphne* or considered using some of the more resilient species and crossings to see what kind of heritability there might be for resistance?

**Andrew Riseman:** I would love to. The problem with that is first, associated with a botanical garden, I was primarily interested in species, and that's where I started out trying to understand species differences. And, if possible, understand how the resistance is evolving in the different lineages of the species. That is where I would ultimately like my personal research to go. Certainly, once we have the screen system in place we will be collecting the hybrids and evaluating them to see how certain species contribute susceptibility or resistance into the hybrids.

**Paulus Vrijmoed:** Where do you find the sphagnum peat moss for your germinating medium and do you do anything to it (e.g., grinding)? Would it be useful for other native species?

**Dennis Bottemiller:** It comes from a runway construction site at the SeaTac airport. We grind it up lightly by passing it through a 3/8-inch screen (hardware cloth), put it in a container, and seed directly into it.

**Paulus Vrijmoed:** When do you transplant the germinants?

**Dennis Bottemiller:** As soon as they get their first set of true leaves we start taking them out. We like to remove them quickly before the sphagnum begins to deteriorate.