

Friday Session I: Questions and Answers®

Dave Hannings: What's the cookie cutter for?

Jim Booman: We use cookie cutters to cut the leaves.

Jim Owen: Should less controlled-release fertilizers be applied when working with plugs?

George Bear: Yes, if possible.

Matt Gold: You showed some phytotoxicity of metam sodium on five-needle pines. Do you think that would be the same for two-needle pines? And, would the problem be less with more-established plants?

Bob Buzzo: Yes, juvenile seedlings are more susceptible, but I've heard of people having problems with using metam sodium around 1-gal mugo pines. Older material is less susceptible.

Jim Booman: Is there such a thing as a slow-release organic material?

George Bear: No. To date, we haven't found an organic material that's dense enough to withstand the coating process.

Kristin Yanker-Hansen: Is there any way of making a coating that will break-down eventually.

George Bear: The plastic coatings are made of polymeric chains which are made up of nitrogen, carbon, and oxygen and they all do breakdown over time. There is a new technology that's still in the exploratory phase using animal-based waste proteins as fertilizer coatings to move us out of that petroleum chain.