

first few months. Also, since this summer was cooler and wetter than usual, the plants were not heat stressed (where the Osmocote would have a disadvantage), so it was not a good year for a trial either. In the end, most crops that had both types of fertilizer showed no difference in either vigor or color.

However, there were two crops that did show a noticeable (visual) difference in fall color and growth in October. They were *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Coppertina' which showed a significant difference in color and vigor, with the plants in Apex showing better growth; and *Sorbaria sorbifolia* 'Sem' which showed a significant difference in color and growth. In this latter case, the plants in Osmocote fared better. Opposite results which, at this point, I cannot explain.

What have I learned? Firstly, I know better how to conduct a trial. We will try again next year and put better controls on it. I will make sure we choose at least two large crops that will be approximately half of each fertilizer. We will use shorter, color-coded sticks to indicate which fertilizer is in each flat, and I will use a leachate method to test the EC on a smaller number of plants in order to get more accurate readings. In subsequent years, we will need to trial more varieties in order to get a complete picture.

In conclusion, I am still convinced that in some situations it is worth it to use a better quality fertilizer, especially for higher value and difficult to grow crops. I expect to have more proof for this soon.

Because You're a Propagator

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Because you're a propagator...

Because what we might think will always stay the same, probably won't...

Because being a Texas Rangers Fan is "Dog" Tiring...

Because what we expect when we stick cuttings are results like this, and what we often get looks like this...

Because even when we do everything right, we are often rewarded with stands like this...

Because you never know what the next bug is going to be, waiting to ruin your day or eat you for lunch...

I say:

This fall take time to breath, relax, get out and enjoy the wonders of our profession...the plants!

Take time to play with the dog, cause you know you want to!

Get some rest, make time to catch a snowflake on your tongue and...

This spring, may all your stands be strong!