

Questions and Answers: Session IV, Saturday, 3 October, 8:00–10:00 AM[®]

Patrick Peterson: Was the sulfur compound being used to dip the bottoms of the plants a particular type?

Jack Kelly: No, it's dusting sulfur. Sometimes a rooting hormone is added to the sulfur, which will make it less yellow, but you don't have to do that. You don't have to do the sulfur either. The key is to scab them over so they are really dry. You can let them go for a month or up to 6 months and they'll still root easily.

Christy Powell: Do you have any experience working with using banker plants? I've heard that's been quite successful in greenhouse situations allowing beneficials to reproduce.

James Bethke: I have not done any work with banker plants. It is successful in many cases. It has a lot to do with being able to produce one beneficial for a specific pest in a crop like the whitefly. So you get a plant that's not associated with the ornamental that will host the whitefly and the beneficial and then those beneficials will disperse themselves in your crop to keep the population of whiteflies down. By the way, the banker-plant idea works well in botanic gardens, arboreta, and zoos since the plants there are not being moved around like they would be in a production facility.

Gene Blythe: Did you irradiate dry seeds or were they soaked beforehand?

Ursula Schuch: We soaked the seeds before they were treated with chemical mutagens, but not before the irradiation treatment. The irradiation treatments were done for us and we didn't know exactly when they would be treated. We didn't want to get them wet in a warm environment for fear of deterioration by microorganisms.