

Questions and Answers: Session V, Saturday, 3 October, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM[©]

Kathy Echols: This is a question about the Zee-Stem. Are you using it for all of your cherry production now or is it going to be sporadic?

Tom Spellman: At this time Zee-Stem is about 40% of our total cherry production. I see that expanding next year to between 60%–70%.

Kathy Echols: Are those plants only going to commercial growers or are any of those plants available to the home gardener?

Tom Spellman: Right now, Zee-Stem is only used in agriculture. The production method is too expensive and the extra patent fees don't really allow it to be a marketable retail tree at this point. That might change in 4 or 5 years.

Gail Suttle: How old are your oldest Zee-Stem trees?

Tom Spellman: Some experimental trees are 30 years old.

Gail Suttle: How long has Zee-Stem been a commercial product?

Tom Spellman: About 6 years.

Jean Goldsmith: Once your trays have been disinfested, how is the residual disinfestant dealt with?

Bill Bozicevich: That's a good question; unfortunately I don't know the answer.