CURTIS J. ALLEY WESTERN REGION AWARD OF MERIT

Presented by Mr. Ed Kubo, President of the IPPS Western Region, at the annual banquet, Sheraton Santa Barbara Hotel.

This year the Curtis J. Alley Merit Award recipient is a person we all admire and respect because of his vision, his "young ideas," compassion, understanding, and leadership.

He is a charter member of The International Plant Propagators, Western Region, serving as President of the Western Region in 1967, and International president in 1970.

He has served on many committees, including the Finance Committee, Long Range Planning and Nomination Committee, Site Committee, Research and Scholarship Committee, Education Award Committee, and the Awards Committee.

When I was told who the recipient of this award would be, I was thrilled and honored that I was going to make this presentation. He is a man that I admire and respect, a man that showed me how to seek and share, who questioned my decisions and made me think again. He was a pioneer in the development of the U.C. system of growing plants and he is well known as the man that developed the 'Santa Anita Race Track' pansy. He has owned Union Nursery and Tropico Nursery Sales. This man is Mr. Henry Ishida.

INNOVATIONS IN AIR LAYERING

WILLIAM L. NELSON

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Air layering seems to be one of the least used methods of propagation. I think that this is largely due to the fact that air layers are messy, awkward, and may be dangerous to apply. Imagine standing near the top of a 16-ft. orchard ladder holding a wad of wet peat moss around a branch with one hand and wrapping it with binder twine with the other. A sudden breeze and some sweat burning your eyes may make tissue culture sound pretty good.

At our nursery, air layering has been a great help in building the inventory of many rare or slow-growing trees. Along the way we have picked up a number of ideas that have helped to make this method more effective and safe. It is used primarily in the propaga-