

EASTERN REGION QUESTION BOX SESSION

The Question Box Session was convened at 9:30 a.m. 10 December 1991 with Ralph Shugert and Bruce Briggs serving as moderators.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Question for Deb McCown. You have in tissue culture *Cornus kousa* 'Milky Way Select'. What is the source of this plant?

DEB MCCOWN: Origins of Milky Way Select. Original plant from old Lake County Nursery Exchange (L.C.N.E.), now Lake County Nursery, who were growing dogwood from seed of original 'Milky Way' plant. L.C.N.E. said seed was pretty "true" to original clonal plant. We brought in seedlings and selected one that was particularly nice. We could not call our microcuttings 'Milky Way' but wanted to indicate that our plants would be similar to original 'Milky Way' clone—hence 'Milky Way Select'. We have carefully explained this in our catalogue.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Elwin Orton. How about telling us about *Cornus kousa* 'Summer Stars'. Is it a clone?

ELWIN ORTON: To the best of my knowledge it is a clone that was patented and the rights are owned by Princeton Nurseries. It was found on Long Island.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Dick Wolff. Anything new on verticillium wilt on Japanese maples or other *Acer* species?

DICK WOLFF: No one has found a cure for the disease. We did an experiment with bark known to be infected with verticillium. By three years we lost all the plants mulched with bark containing verticillium wilt. We came to the conclusion that we would not allow any hardwood bark to be associated with Japanese maples.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Dick Wolff. With our latest knowledge of disease, etc., when is the best time to prune Japanese maples?

DICK WOLFF: We start our pruning about this time of year and continue all winter.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Dick Wolff. When preparing cuttings or scions what is best disinfectant these days for knives, etc.?

DICK WOLFF: We are using Physan. We had previously used isopropyl alcohol. We even have our grafters rinse their hands in a little alcohol.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Questions for Dick Wolff. Do you get any new growth on *Acer palmatum* rooted cuttings before they go dormant? Why is it important to use small-seeded *A. palmatum* for understock?

DICK WOLFF: A few of them will break bud but most do not. We tried lights but discontinued them. Rooting is not the problem—getting them through the winter is the problem. We do not give them nitrogen fertilizer in the late summer. We overwinter them in an underground storage pit where we can store 15 to 20 thousand plants. Fungus can be a problem so spray and watch ventilation to control. Rodent control is also necessary.

At one time we collected all the different understocks we could and we found that

a number of them were not winter hardy. We found that small seeded *A. palmatum* was reliably hardy and have never had any problems with it.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Is anyone using an electrically heated, slotted pipe (callusing tube) for grafting? I have plans for one heated with water, but am interested in one using a heat cable.

BRUCE BRIGGS: I would suggest that you contact Harry Lagerstedt, Lisa Buchholz, and Verl Holden who have done it in the west. Their names can be found in the new Membership Directory. You need to experiment yourself because timing is very critical.

MARK SUTCLIFFE: You might contact Dick Jaynes in Connecticut who is doing it on a lot of different plants.

DAVE THOMPSON: You might also contact Frank Gouin at the University of Maryland who is doing it with forced hot air.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: We have a golden yew in production for 30 years under the name *Taxus cuspidata* 'Aurescens'. The habit holds the middle between 'Hicks' and Densa yew for lack of anything better to compare it to. It grows at the typical speed of *T. cuspidata*, does well in containers but burns in the field at a young age. I would like to know if anyone knows the plant and why so few people produce the plant?

FRASER HANCOCK: I believe we have the same plant and we are propagating it at Sheridan Nurseries as *T. cuspidata* 'Aurea'; they have called it 'Aurescens' as well. There appears to be two forms, a broad grower and upright type.

DAVE THOMPSON: We brought in *T. cuspidata* 'Aurescens', 'Aurea', 'Aurescens Nana', and *T. baccata* 'Aurea' and planted them out in a hedge. We could not tell the difference between any of them. It roots very easily with 0.8% IBA.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: I have heard a few times this week about seed propagation of cultivars. Doesn't this violate the definition of a cultivar being genetically identical?

ELWIN ORTON: Cultivars are not limited to asexual propagation methods by International Code of Nomenclature.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: How much reversion is in flower color do propagators find in *Syringa* 'Sensation' propagated by softwood cuttings? Is there a difference if propagated by tissue culture.

STEVE MCCULLOCH: 'Sensation' is a chimera and it will sport to a white type. You can do a good job of separating out the off types because white lilacs tend to have paler leaves.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: This person would like to know if anyone has experienced the problem of *Hydrangea* 'Annebelle' not flowering or flowering with a reproductive flower: We have seen this in our field. The plants have been propagated by shoot sections taken off dormant plants.

STEVE MCCULLOCH: I have heard that there is variability with *Hydrangea* 'Annebelle' but do not know why.

DICK BIR: It flowers the first year from cuttings for us. Don't fertilize is the secret

MODERATOR BRIGGS: What are the cost factors in the CIPS system?

BRUCE BRIGGS: Based on work at OSU and what I have seen in Europe it could be competitive.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Has any work been done on how plants do in a landscape after being grown with a constant supply of moisture as in the closed watering system discussed by Bruce Briggs?

BRUCE BRIGGS: We grew some on, including magnolias and *Cedrus deodora*, and they seemed to respond as well as if not better in some cases.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: What plants can we plant in our discharge water ways to absorb nitrogen, etc.? If we can contain the water at time of discharge could we treat it?

PEGGY CRAIG: I am interested in this because our land fill and swamp filtration with species, such as cattails, has been used.

VOICE: I think that the Soil Conservation Service would be the people to contact for information.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: What are the ingredients in successful grafting of *Picea pungens*? Please discuss understock, timing, post graft storage, water and any other factors

DAVE THOMPSON: We use *P. abies* understock. A strong healthy understock is all important. We are grafting now and in January, February and March. We are also experimenting with August grafting. You do not have to plunge them but can use high humidity. We watch for the first swelling of the scion bud and start the two stage cut back process. The first cut back is to the length of the scion and that remaining understock is used as a support for the scion until planted out

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Is anyone using up to 50% municipal leaf compost with pine bark as a container medium?

TOM KIMMEL: We have been told that you can not use more than 20% as a peat replacement because of burn from the high nutrient content.

PETER ORUM: You need to get an analysis before using it because you can burn your plants badly. Run an E C. test at the least.

ED LOSLEY: I would caution about the use of yard waste that contains grass clippings because of the potential pesticide problem.

WAYNE MEZITT: Everyone I have asked about the pesticide residue with lawn waste says it is not there. I think we need a study on this.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Can anyone provide information on the rooting of *Prunus glandulosa*? Please address timing, cutting type and length, type of medium, rooting hormone and after care

MARK RICHEY: The first flush is the best and goes down hill after that. Run the medium and the tops a little on the dry side.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Does anyone reuse media in a greenhouse bench for later crops? What is most successful method for regaining good sanitary conditions for next crop?

ED LOSLEY: Take it out, it's good insurance.

MODERATOR BRIGGS: Is anyone using household soap for insect control:

RALPH FREEMAN: Ivory Snow flakes controls spider mites. However it is not labelled for pesticide use Ivory Soap (flakes) used at 1.6 oz/gal will control 85% of two-spotted spider mites in one day If Vendex is included at label rates. . nearly 100% control will be attained. This work was done at Cornell several years ago.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Dave Thompson. Do you recommend leaving a piece of the understock on the grafted scion that has taken in order to feed the scion better or do you cut the understock top off right after the scion has taken?

DAVE THOMPSON: You have heard my comment on *Picea pungens* With *Tsuga canadensis* and *T. caroliniana* the faster we cut the root stock back the faster we will force the scion; the same thing with *Cedrus*. With the pines we are a little more skeptical and take our time cutting them back.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Dave Thompson. Where do you collect scions for *Chamaecyparis nothataensis* 'Pendula', *Picea breweriana*, an other conifers with pendulous branchlets? From branch tips or branchlets?

DAVE THOMPSON: We have found that with pendulous forms such as prostrate *P. pungens* that if we take a strong leader off the stock plant we don't seem to have the prostrate characteristic. We use lateral shoots with that type of plant. With *P. abies* 'Pendula' it depends on how fast we want to get it to market. For fast results we look for the strongest and straightest terminal. With *Tsuga* we have no preference.

MODERATOR SHUGERT: Question for Dave Thompson. Do you dip *P. pungens* scions in Clorox?

DAVE THOMPSON: Everything gets dipped in 5% dilution as a quick dip. We take 4 crops a year out of our houses and then we go in and scrub down with a 10% Clorox solution After that we go in and spray with 100% Clorox solution. We have eliminated our fungus problems.