

“Liner Propagation and Production” Question-Answer Period

PETER CATT: Can you help with the problem we've seen with the strength of the fertilizer solution on newly rooted magnolia cuttings?

SANDY HOWKINS: We leave the rooted cutting in the plug until it has started vegetative growth. One of the reasons we feed it is so the root system does get used to a salt-based fertilizer. When you transplant the cutting still in the peat plug into a container medium containing 10 lb of fertilizer per yard, the plant is protected somewhat by that peat plug.

LAINIE MCLAUGHLIN: Do the peat pots come with holes poked into them?

SANDY HOWKINS: Yes.

ANONYMOUS: Can you use the same procedures for evergreen magnolias?

SANDY HOWKINS: Yes, you can. The only difference is that we do cut the leaves and we only take off the top $\frac{1}{3}$ and the cutting has 5 or 6 nodes.

Seedling Propagation of Four New Zealand Podocarpus Species

Robert Appleton

Main South Road, Wakefield, Nelson, New Zealand

BACKGROUND

New Zealand (N.Z.) forests have suffered a systematic destruction of the forest cover from the time of settlement 4000 years ago that was only accelerated by colonization 150 years ago.

This destruction, particularly of coastal and lowland forests on more accessible sites was principally for timber and clearing for agricultural production. This has ceased in recent years with a ban on all indigenous logging except from certified sustainably managed forests. Fortunately, extensive areas have been set aside in national parks, national forests, and reserves. Of the 6 million ha, 1 million ha remaining is privately owned. However, the publicly protected lands are not fully representative of the whole range of N.Z. landscapes, natural areas, and ecosystems. Some of the under-represented areas are the estuaries, freshwater wetlands, scrublands, tussock grasslands, and lowland forests.

In recent years, conservation has become of much wider interest to the public in general and many groups have been pressing the case for protection of natural features in the landscape. The Queen Elizabeth the Second Traditional Trust has a significant and essential role in assisting to redress the current imbalance in the range of natural areas protected in N.Z. One challenge when seeking to protect natural features and landscapes can be working with private landowners and involving them directly in the protection and restoration of areas. The Trust