

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

November 23, 1957

The final session convened at 1.45 o'clock, President Vanderbrook presiding.

PRESIDENT VANDERBROOK: Gentlemen, we will start the afternoon off with the panel on "The Propagation of Some Unusual Plants." The moderator will be Roger Coggeshall, of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

MODERATOR COGGESHALL (Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.): The program this afternoon will be concerned with the propagation of unusual plants. It will be more or less a continuation of the talks which we have heard both yesterday morning on the propagation of the borderline evergreens and the talk this morning by Dr. Karl Sax.

The propagation of so-called unusual plants or newer plants in The Arnold Arboretum is going on constantly. Some of them have no merit at all as far as commercial arboriculture is concerned, others we think, do.

I would like to show a series of slides which will certainly illustrate some of the material we have at the present time.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Coggeshall discussed the propagation of some of the more unusual plants from a series of slides. The following account has been edited for presentation in the Proceedings.)

1. *Rhododendron mucronatum*, Cornell Pink:

- a) This plant was grown from seed at Cornell University by Dr. Skinner of the National Arboretum in Washington. It blooms at the same time the magenta or lavender rhododendron does, and we think it is a good plant. We find, however, it is not an easy one to propagate when you consider rhododendrons or azaleas in general. We have been successful only with softwood cuttings, taken in July. The cuttings were rooted in a mixture of sand and peat, mixed half and half by volume.

We have only one plant. This plant is now three years old and from it we took 106 cuttings this past year. Out of those 106 cuttings we managed to root 79. That is by far the best percentage we have been able to obtain. Hardwood cuttings taken throughout the early fall months of October and November are very difficult to root, resulting in only about a 5 per cent stand.

2. *Viburnum tomentosum roseum*:

- a) There has been some confusion about this particular plant. When it first opens it is quite pale, but the longer it stays in bloom the darker it becomes. This remains in flower for at least three weeks and is quite a spectacle. Certainly, very conspicuous over the other viburnums. It is readily propagated from softwood cuttings treated with Hormodin No. 2.
- b) This plant seems to lack vigor. The plant was obtained in 1928 and has grown approximately four feet.

3 *Stewartia koreana*, Korean stewartia:

- a) This plant, *S. koreana*, and *S. pseudocamellia* look alike at a distance. However, there is a difference in the size of the flower.

The bark of the Korean stewartia is certainly conspicuous. The plant blooms again the second or third week in June, in Jamaica Plain.

4. *Ilex yunnanensis*:

- a) The propagation of holly has already been mentioned. This one is *Ilex yunnanensis*. It roots very readily from hardwood cuttings taken in the months of October and November, treated with Hormodin No. 2 and stuck in a sand and peat mix, half and half by volume.

5. *Mahonia aquisargentii*:

- a) This is a cross between a mahonia and a barberry. The name is *Mahonia aquisargentii*. I have never seen it in flower or in fruit. We received a single plant of this variety from Sweden.
- b) We have been propagating this plant very heavily and the plant really hasn't had a chance to flower. The foliage doesn't winter-burn badly. Any leaves which protruded above the snow line were hardy.
- c) They root very well from hardwood cuttings, again taken in the fall months and treated with Hormodin No. 3 in sand and peat.

6. *Pinus bungeana*:

- a) I have put this particular plant in so I could mention how it may be propagated. It is *Pinus bungeana*. It does not seed for us in Boston. However, it can be very easily propagated by grafting on plants of native white pine seedlings.

The next speaker on the program is Mr. Richard Fenicchia, from the Rochester Park System, Rochester, New York. Mr. Fenicchia!

MR. RICHARD FENICCHIA (Rochester Park Bur., Rochester, New York): Thank you, Roger. Fellow members, it is a great pleasure for me to be here. I will try to convey to you what little information I have regarding unusual plants and their propagation. I maintain there is nothing new under the sun, but more testing must be given to some of the plants I will describe.

I know that every nurseryman has plants hidden somewhere in his nursery, plants probably of an unusual character which he may be watching, or may have forgotten. I believe there is a great deal of wonderful plant material growing unnoticed around in various nurseries.

Mr. Fenicchia presented his paper entitled, "Unusual Plants and Their Propagation." (Applause)