

## THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

December 5, 1963

The Thursday evening session convened at 8:00 p.m. in the Crystal Room of the Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel. Summaries of the round-table discussions held Thursday morning were presented by the recorders. Tom Pinney, Jr., Evergreen Nurseries, was moderator.

MR. TOM PINNEY, JR.: I believe that this is the first time we have had a round-table discussion at a Plant Propagators' Society meeting. I know that some of you wanted to go to all three meetings. Since that was not possible, we have recorders who took notes during the meeting and now they will summarize the morning's discussions. The first report will be on storage and care of cuttings, grafts, and established nursery stock. Jack Hill will give the report.

### STORAGE AND CARE OF CUTTINGS, GRAFTS, AND ESTABLISHED NURSERY STOCK

Moderator: DR. JOHN P. MAHLSTED

Recorder: JACK HILL

We had tremendous interest and everyone had something to contribute. We had a little difficulty keeping on the track since it seemed that we slipped out of storage and into the problem of overwintering.

One of the first subjects was the storage of hardwood cuttings. Most members reported that their hardwood cuttings were made in the October - November period and that they were stuck in April. However, a few members reported putting the cuttings out in the fall. They overwintered either covered or mounded with soil.

For storage, the medium should be moist, but not wet. The medium could be peat moss, fresh sawdust or sphagnum moss. The temperature which seemed to do the best was 34° F. In subsequent discussion it was worked out that 32° F. ± 1° F. was actually the optimum temperature.

The question of crown gall came up. It was concluded that the crown gall did not come from the medium in which the cuttings were stored, but came in with the cuttings. It was suggested that a dip to kill the bacteria could be used, but the best solution was to obtain clean stock. Someone then pointed out that really crown gall never hurt the plant — it was only the nursery inspector who was concerned.

A comment which was not directly related to the discussion, but nevertheless interesting, was that hardwood cuttings stuck on an oblique in the ground rather than straight up and down

seemed to root better. Next, we moved on to the subject of softwood cuttings. Almost no one would admit that their work schedule was so poor that they had to store softwood cuttings. However, it was concluded that 32° F. seemed best.

The storage of rooted cuttings to free bench space has good possibilities. The cuttings were stored in common or controlled storage with temperature ranges of 34 - 35° F. and 28 - 32° F. Some stored their cuttings jelly roll fashion with the roots in sphagnum and polyethylene and the tops out. A storage period of 6 - 8 weeks worked out very well.

### STORAGE OF POTTED MATERIAL

A number of people commented on what you might call the "edge effect" experienced in overwintering in the North. It consists of the deterioration of plants along the edges of the bed, especially on the south and the west, suggesting that it is due, not so much to the cold, but to the differential heat caused by the absorption of solar energy on the south-west side.

One suggestion which seemed to give good results was to stack the container on their sides and cover the whole pile with marsh hay. I wondered if this might lead to a problem of drying since the cans would be on their sides and it would be difficult for moisture from rain or snow to enter. A less successful attempt was the construction of a sawdust mound on the south-west side. After the first rain and freeze, the mound became a solid dam. The ground sloped in such a way that the whole area stood in water and everything was lost. The moral of that story is do not use a form of winter protection which will block natural drainage.

Next, we discussed storage of balled and burlapped material. Everyone in this room is aware of the reasons for the storage of balled and burlapped stock, the first of which would be the reduction of the acute labor problem in the spring of the year when everybody wants their stock at once. A second reason would be to reduce the amount of winter injury to the top of the plant. We have investigated this problem and have had rather indifferent results. Some years we have had good result and other years, under nearly the same conditions, we lost nearly everything in storage.

MR. TOM PINNEY, JR.: Thank you, Jack. We will have time for questions after we have heard from the other two recorders. Next, we have Dr. Fred Lanphear who will summarize the discussion on the round-table on sanitation and propagation.