

**DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF ROOT-PROMOTING  
SUSPENSION CONSISTING OF HORMODIN #3 AND TERSAN**

Suspend 2 rounded tablespoons of the mixture of equal parts of Hormodon #3 and Tersan in 5 ounces of water. After the powder is thoroughly wetted and stirred into a smooth suspension, add with rapid stirring 5 ounces of 4/10% solution of Algin. The latter material is a suspending agent which helps to keep the insoluble material from settling out.

Dip the basal end of cuttings into this root-promoting suspension to a depth exceeding that to which the cuttings will be placed in the propagating medium.

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**THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND  
EVENING SESSIONS**

**OPPORTUNITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
PLANT PROPAGATORS' SOCIETY**

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It has been my privilege to have been one of the few charter members of the International Plant Propagators' Society from the west in what is now mainly the Eastern Region. How I gathered that honor, I have never been quite sure. Perhaps it was because I subscribed to Trees Magazine, and Ed Scanlon sent me an application. I realized the value of this sort of organization because there was no other like it, and because, having troubles in our propagation department, I wanted some answers for my problems. This was the sort of Society badly needed by the propagator. Although unable to attend the annual Conferences because they were always held in the east during the winter, I gained a wealth of information from the Proceedings and the quarterly, The Plant Propagator. It was through that valuable contact, I became increasingly more interested in the Plant Propagators' Society, as it was then known.

A few years back, I received letters from some of my Davis friends that indicated there was some thinking going on toward the establishment of a western group. I asked to be included in the discussions, and while I was unable to attend some of the

meetings, ground work was laid for what has now become the Western Region. At the initial Conference in Asilomar, we were most fortunate in having in attendance several dynamic and enthusiastic individuals from the Eastern Region. They grafted into us their intense enthusiasms — the real meat and substance of this Society. After certain birth pains we became the International Plant Propagators' Society. We became the Eastern and Western Regions, each with its own officers. We have an overall governing Board of Directors.

This thumbnail sketch of our Society's history here given for the benefit of those unaware of its beginnings leads us to examine our opportunities in this association. All of us can enjoy the rubbing of shoulders, exchanging bits of information, gaining new horizons from all the many kinds of individuals who make up the roster of our profession. These contacts, individually and collectively will do much toward raising your ideals and all of those with whom you make contact. This in turn will be of greater benefit to all in our efforts to upgrade the plant propagator profession. After all it is with you — the professional propagator — that all this begins; you are the foundation; it's your basic work, the methods you discover and pass on to others that really pays off.

Along with the many opportunities you have of meeting with eminent scientists, and the beginner in the field of propagation, you have this eager sharing of knowledge, this esprit de corps that I have never witnessed in any other organization. I so well remember the first Conference at Asilomar — "Jolly" Batcheller coming out of one of the sessions, his eyes aglow, his face lit up, exclaiming, "I've never seen or felt anything like this"! This is the way it has been at each of our Conferences, and what you would experience if you went to any of the Eastern Region meetings.

However, you do have certain obligations that go along with all of these worthwhile opportunities. I refer in particular to parts of Article 3, Section 2, which has given your Board of Directors a great deal of concern. In part, it states "individual membership shall be available only to those persons who have made a significant contribution in the field of plant propagation by experience, teaching or research." This means you must have had at least five years experience in the field of plant propagation. Then, "it shall be the duty of a member to attend a minimum of one regional meeting each three years or, in lieu of attendance, to contribute a written article for publication in the Newsletter. Failure to comply with these conditions will subject the member to being dropped from the rolls." It is this last part that is the crux of the situation. There are a number of members who have not met these obligations, and while we certainly do not want to drop them from the rolls, this will be necessary if these obligations are not met. I make this plea to you to consider this vital obligation to your Society to see to it that you faithfully do your part in fortifying the strength of

your Society. Some of you may say, "why, I can't write — or I don't have anything to contribute." That isn't entirely the idea. You can come. And who is to know what you have to offer unless you are willing to communicate? Every effort is made to shift the meetings in each region frequently enough to permit us to attend at least once every three years. Some of us find the Society so valuable we don't want to miss any of the Conferences. So will you, each individual, resolve to help the officers make your organization a much more successful one. Thank you.

## TEACHING OF ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE ON A COLLEGE LEVEL

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Teaching of Ornamental Horticulture on a college level, or on any other level for that matter, can be effective only if we have good students to teach. To me, it is the primary responsibility of an industry to do the recruiting of young people to train for key positions in the future of the industry. And in Ornamental Horticulture I don't believe that we have done a good job of recruiting.

When I was younger, growing up in the horticulture trade, one of the big crops was geraniums. It was a common practice for the grower to have all of his geranium plants in one house. As the plants came into bloom they would be sold — the earliest blooming and most vigorous plants selling first. Propagation was done by taking cuttings from those plants that were not sold and the grower's constant complaint was that strain was running out.

I believe that many of us in horticulture have done the same thing. Someone else has taken the early blooming and vigorous young people. Many of those coming into our industry are the ones that were left.

We need to do a better job of selling. We need more pride in our business, and we need to convince ourselves that it has a future. I can recall several years ago of taking our students on field trips to one of the most successful nurseries in the area. The owner would always greet us with the question "What do you want to go into the nursery business for? You'll never make any money." I am sure that deep down in his heart the nursery owner didn't believe what he was saying. Perhaps he was just afraid of future competition.

Contrary to common belief, not all of today's youth are out solely for the dollar. Many of them select a career because it presents a challenge, because of previous experience, or because of the romance involved. Horticulturalists need to dress up their image to compete with the romance of aviation or the pres-