

When the plants are well established and growing they are removed from the tent and hardened off under normal mist. The plant clumps are then divided into separate plants and potted into tubes and grown under mist with regular applications of liquid fertilizer. They are finally potted-on and established, ready for sale.

FIXING CLIMBERS TO STAKES WITH ADHESIVE LABELS

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In early autumn, 1982, various adhesive labels were tested to determine if they could be used to fix climbers to bamboo stakes. We had to stake many thousands of climbing plants with very soft stems. Twist ties tightened sufficiently to hold the plants up on the stake damaged the stems.

Quickstick International self-adhesive labels peeled off a backing sheet were used successfully. These are available from most news agents in a range of sizes. The most suitable size was 50 x 13 mm and these were available in sheets of 20 for about \$3.20 per thousand. While we needed them to last for a week or two, by which time the plants would be self-supporting, the labels retained their effectiveness for many months.

There were no savings in either material or labour costs as compared to other staking methods. This was because staff had difficulty detaching labels from the backing sheet. This required two hands at a most inconvenient stage of the staking operation. If growers got together to order sufficient labels a manufacturer could produce them in a form that is easy to handle, possibly in rolls. Then I believe this system would have potential in the industry.