

THE NURSERY BUSINESS IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

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SUMMARY

A number of nurseries in 1940 formed a group called the Ornamental Growers of Northern Illinois. The main market for these producers is landscape contractors, landscape architects, and other nurseries. This group has a high profile at public meetings and Trade Shows. The group is promoted through a newsletter and "The Plant Locator"—a list of plants and grades with nurseries able to supply.

There are 20 member nurseries growing trees, shrubs, and perennials on more than 4100 acres. Many of the nurseries in the group have been in the business for more than one generation but each nursery retains its own identity. Some members have introduced their own plants, while the group is working together with the Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Botanic Garden on a Plant Introduction Scheme modeled on the British Columbian Plant Introduction Scheme.

SUPERIOR MALE KIWIFRUIT—EVALUATION, IDENTIFICATION, AND PROPAGATION

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INTRODUCTION

Pollination is a vital factor in the successful production of kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa* (A. Chev.) C. F. Liang et A. R. Ferguson var. *deliciosa*). Pollen must be transferred from the anthers of the male flowers to the stigmas of the female flowers. This event is of particular importance to kiwifruit production because:

1. The plant is dioecious, i.e., male and female flowers occur on separate vines.
2. Fruit weight at harvest depends largely upon the number of seeds set (4), and seed number is influenced by the amount of pollen transferred.

At the Ruakura Agricultural Centre we have developed a method of optimising pollen transfer using spray pollination (6). As