

SPECIALIZED SESSIONS

ROSE SESSION

Moderator - Paul Burgevin

Reporters - Bob Baudendistel

Al Mitlehner

Q. (Kauffman) On the roses we saw on the tour, what were the periods of time the roses were misted?

A. (Langhans) There were three major treatments, (1) checks which were started without mist, (2) plants which were started under mist and misted up to Nov. 1 and, (3) plants which have been misted since being started June 15, July 15, August 15 and September 15, 1955.

Q. (Kauffman) Was too much water applied by the mist?

A. (Langhans) For starting the dormant rose plants during the hot summer of 1955 I would say definitely

not. In a few cases where the stems of the dormant plants were not kept moist the plants did not start as well as the others. Also, as we saw from the production records, those plants started in June and July and misted to November 1 produced more and longer flowers.

Q. From your experiments, how late in the summer can we start dormant roses and still get good winter production?

A. (Langhans) From our work, the July 15 planting still produced a good plant and good winter production.

Q. Is there anyone using this type of misting on a commercial scale?

A. (Richardson--Arnold Fisher Co., Mass.) Yes, we have a system similar to Langhan's and got very good results last summer. These plants were started in early spring and the mist wasn't started until June. We feel we definitely increased both production and stem length.

Q. Is mildew a problem under mist?

A. We found under our high pressure mist mildew was no problem.

A. (Richardson) Our plants had mildew before we started to mist. The mist cleared up the mildew on the tops of the leaves, but not on the lower sides. We had to spray to clear up the mildew on the lower side and after that we had no more trouble.

A. (Dimock) Mr. Richardson's experience agrees with what we would expect. Powdery mildew will develop at high humidity but not in a film of water.

Q. (Burgevin) What can be done to control Botrytis in storage and shipping of roses?

A. (Dimock) First, sanitation in the greenhouse--keep all dead leaves, petals, etc. cleaned up. Second, provide good ventilation at all times, preferably with a little heat in the pipes. The object is to keep the petals dry in the greenhouse, where most of the infection apparently occurs.

Q. (Burgevin) Besides mist, what is the best means of controlling mildew?

A. (Dimock) Provide good ventilation and temperature control as for Botrytis control. Use sulfur on the pipes regularly, 3 nights a week, or more. If mildew is already present Mildex or Karathane at 6 ounces per 100 gals., with spreading agent, will clean it up.

Q. (Burgevin) During periods of low light, can the temperature be dropped to 55°F without loss in production and keeping quality?

A. (Seeley) In experiments conducted at Penn State we found when the temperature was dropped to 55°F after low light, no difference in keeping quality was noted. However, at the lower night temperature, production and growth did decrease.

Q. (Burgevin) What causes bullheads in roses, especially BETTER TIMES?

A. (Seeley) The real reason is not known. However, most bullheads are found on fast grown shoots.

Q. (Stroh) Can symphalids be transported from a field planting to the greenhouse?

A. (Naegele) Yes, they can be transported from the field--in soil, on tools, shoes, etc.; also, in manure.

Q. What is the best grade of peat moss to use?

A. (Andreasen) A coarse peat moss is recommended.

Q. Is mulching beneficial or can it be ignored?

A. (Andreasen) Mulching does prevent compaction of the soil by hose watering, but it doesn't reduce water loss to any appreciable extent. We, therefore, don't recommend mulching roses in the greenhouses.

Q. What is the best soil mixture for growing roses?

A. (Andreasen) The soil you are now using is the best plus the addition of one-third peat moss.

Q. (Grower) When mixing an insecticide with a fungicide, is there any loss in effectiveness?

A. (Dimock) Yes, there is some loss of effectiveness of most fungicides, but usually not enough to be important.