

IPPS

Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally

the Propagator

International Plant Propagators' Society
Australian Region - Newsletter Spring 2011 - No: 31

International Scene

This is the first of insights of what is going on around the world in horticulture, and Clive Mullet from Nonke Plants in South Africa has kindly contributed for this edition.

The industry is very broadly divided into 5 main areas Gauteng, Kwa Zulu Natal, Eastern and Southern Cape and the Western Cape and Free State. In the Western Cape we have a mediterranean climate with winter rainfall. As our nursery is located there I will concentrate on plants we sell.

The 6 top sellers would be:

Agapanthus praeocox blue and white species and **Agapanthus nana** blue and white species.

Rhus crenata – Dune Crow Berry more commonly known as the dune berry. It reaches approximately 1-1.5m and grows quickly in full sun and is drought resistant. The insignificant cream flowers are not the main reason for planting. It is a perfect landscape plant hardy even to frost and can be pruned easily. It thrives in all soils as the name suggests even on the coastal dunes.

Carrisa Green Carpet – Noem Noem (Natal Plum) - A evergreen sprawling

shrub with dark green spiny leaves. 30 to 50 cm x 1m in size. Suitable to a range from coastal to inland. Hardy and drought tolerant, it occasionally has white flowers and a red edible fruit. The larger **Carrisa macrocarpa** is also used as a security hedge, having large spines on stems with plenty of white fragrant flowers in summer followed by large red edible fruits.

Dietes grandiflora – Yes still probably no 1 favourite of landscape architects and landscapers. At NONKE plants we have a whole block allocated to this species - 20,000 units in production constantly.

Salvia the wild sages - We do a few of these and as they are drought tolerant and fast growing they are becoming more popular even with home gardeners. And we are seeing new species added regularly.

Salvia chamaelagnea 1.5m- 2m lime green foliage with blue flowers

Salvia Africana lutea 1.5m-2m grey foliage with orange brown flowers

Salvia African caerulea 1.5- 2m in blue violet or pink.

Tracheolospermum jasminoides – No introduction needed for this multipurpose groundcover huge demand all year round. (If only I had R1 South African for each plant sold yearly in South Africa). Will it ever lose its popularity as a multipurpose landscape plant?

We trial new varieties monthly at Nonke Plants and I hope to share information on some of these native South African plants in the near future.

Thank you Clive for your insights into what container plants are now popular in your area of South Africa. I hope I can visit sometime, these are certainly different to a top six plants list here.



Weltevrede Nursery (Nonke Plants), photo from: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/>

THIS EDITION

International Scene
2012 Toowoomba Conference
Plant Hormones and Growth
Regulators

Reports

•President's Comment
•Executive Officer's Comment
•Membership Committee
Southern African Exchange

Profile

Clive Larkman

Challenge

News & Events

Newsletter Editors Comment



President's Comment

As your new president doing my first report, I am just a little nervous but feel very privileged to be in this position in such a fabulous 'professional but friendly' group of people. Firstly a big thanks to the outgoing president, Lionel Sach & retiring board members; Dyllon McPhee, Liz Smith, Mim Downes. Despite the tough economic times, the momentum of this society continues to build. This has been achieved by the dedication of these people over the past many years.

A big welcome to the new board members; Michael Gleeson, Doug Twentymen & Dan Austin & to David Cliffe for seeking another three term as an Australian region board member following on from his term as International Director this year. We still have one board member position vacant so if you would like to be part of the professional management team running this society please get in touch with me.

Wow, the International Conference in Sydney, well done to organizing team; Dyllon, Michael & Tony. Hats off for a job well done. The fireworks were the icing on the cake.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to all the members & non members who supported the conference. This was the best attended conference in the Sydney region since the 1988 conference at Manly. Yes, you can read about that conference in the history of the Aust region IPPS book (2nd Edition) launched at this conference. Well written by our Historian Ian Gordon, it highlights the events &

memorable snippets about past & current members from the beginning of this society. Available to all members, contact Pam if you did not collect your copy at the conference.

Toowoomba, (The Garden City of Qld) 17 – 20th May, our 2012 conference. Mark these dates in your dairy for our next conference. Expect a totally different experience with the same friendly atmosphere.

Also as current Chairman of the Awards Committee for the past five years, it is very satisfying to report that for the first time in many years, we attracted a record number of nominations from throughout Australia for each of our youth award categories.

The revamped youth awards program instigated in 2003 is now starting to show real dividends for our society with two previous winners in prominent positions on our board. The continuing encouragement & career enticement to the youth of our Australia industry is vital in maintaining our leading international recognition. I encourage members to read the nomination information on our website.

It will be business as usual as the new president, continuing on the work done by previous presidents. I have an open door policy to anyone with any issues/ideas that they believe can be of benefit to Members. I can be contacted at pj_lewis@optusnet.com.au or (07) 3207 5455

Peter Lewis

Executive Officer's Report

September 2011

IPPSS Office

Even though the IPPS Office slows down at this time of the year, I have been busy winding up final reports/outcome from the Sydney conference. What a fabulous



conference it was. Going through the feedback forms majority had an enjoyable and informative time.

Subscriptions

Maintaining membership is still a challenge as membership has declined over the past year. The Australian Region of IPPS currently has 233 members. Whilst saying this we have 6 new members who have joined since the Sydney conference

Combined Proceedings

International Board have advised they are on target and all Members will receive their combined proceedings Vol. 59 shortly.



Toowoomba Conference 2012 – 17th to 20th May 2012

Next years conference will be held at the Toowoomba Motel Convention Centre

Make a note of this date in your diary.

Pam Berryman

Membership committee report



For those of you out there in IPPS world who keep up with these things, there

will be some of you who are aware that I am now a member of the new Oz Region board.

Well I attended my first 'over the phone' board meeting recently and have been given the responsibility of looking after 'Membership'.

Our great Society can only continue to be what it is if we keep on encouraging new members to join us and we keep in touch with the members we have. Now this is not up to just me and a membership committee it is something we should all be working on.

My first commitment to the board was to get in touch with all our new

members and welcome them aboard and encourage them to get out and do some 'Seeking & Sharing'.

The other thing I would also like to do is to hear from any of our membership if they have a query or if they know of someone out there who may need a bit of a nudge to come on board. Those of you who know me will be aware that I can put a very good case for IPPS so please make me aware of anybody I need to chat to.

I now look forward to this new 'Challenge' and hope you will all pitch in.

Michael Gleeson

Benefits of the Southern African Exchange program

2011 Exchange

Where do I start the whole trip was amazing.

I stayed with some really nice family's and got to see some breath taking



places, I walked up Table Mountain and down into Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, also went to Paarl Mountain and had a brye, saw a lot of plants I grow back home happily growing out of the sand with nearly no water.

Worked in a few different types of nurseries ranging from liners (plugs), 4-6 inch pots/bags up to trees in 50L bags.

I couldn't believe that most the workers work on the ground and not on any benches, and I also got to pet a cheetah.

The whole experience will be something I'll never forget thanks again to the IPPS and everyone involved.

- Keegan Reed Larkmans Nursery



Left at Malanseuns Nursery showing how they dibble their cutting trays using this plate with nails. The other picture is of a woman hand watering plants in an igloo and that is her job, this is part of quality control. Photos David Parlby

2010 Exchange

Many people would ask why you would want to be part of the South African exchange program let alone why an employer would want to send a staff member away for 3 weeks.



The first part of this question is easy for me to answer considering I was lucky enough to be able to be part of this exciting program.

I was able to see how the South African culture adapts to a challenging environment. During my time in South Africa they were battling the global financial crises and because of this the nursery industry was struggling.

During my time in South Africa I was able to learn a lot about myself and where my career was and where it was heading because of this experience.

An employer should look at this program as a great way to develop their staff member's career. Being able to work closely with the members of the South African horticulture industry was a great experience.

Some people might think the South African industry isn't as advanced as Australia's, this might be true however I found their optimism was infectious. This infectious optimism I brought back to Australia and use to help others achieve their goals. I did this by realising the right frame of mind will produce the correct outcome.

The wonderful members of the South African horticulture industry showed me many wonderful things, however two things will always stick with me.

The first being to think outside the box and the second is to always ask why.

I found these to be important because they have helped me overcome some difficult situations. Three weeks might seem like a long time to be away from the business, however the amount of information and life experience that can be gathered in that time is priceless. When I came back to Australia, I found the experience gave new energy towards my job and the industry.

David Parlby Warren Park Nursery

**SOUTH AFRICA 2012
YOUNG PROPAGATORS
APPLY NOW**

For the opportunity of a lifetime, it is now time to apply for the **South African Exchange Program**.

This IPPS project aims to give young propagators at the start of their career the opportunity to gain experience of the industry elsewhere and to build a better understanding of each country.

In early 2012 the young propagator chosen will spend approximately 3 weeks in South Africa, hosted by local Nurserymen, where they will work and visit other nurseries and places of interest in South Africa, including tourist venues, plus attend the IPPS Conference.

The program as usual is sponsored by Australia and South Africa IPPS. After the trip the chosen propagator will be expected to attend the Australian IPPS Toowoomba Conference in May 2012 to talk about their experience.

Now that you are thinking about this or you know someone who may be suitable, check the following to make sure of eligibility:-

- You must be over the age of 18 and just starting your career of propagating and growing plants.
- You must be able to travel to South Africa in March 2012 and attend our 2012 Conference.
- Your employer must support this application and your time off work.
- You must be prepared to make notes and take photographs of your great experience and report back to the Australian IPPS Conference.

If all of the above suits you and you would like to be hosted in South Africa (at no cost to you, except spending money) and gain from the experience of South Africa. Then send in the application form which is available on the IPPS website www.ipps.org.au by the **end of November 2011**.

**2012 Toowoomba
Conference**

Time is right for a regional conference away from the big city. It has been 5 years since Dubbo's relaxed atmosphere and dry conditions. The Toowoomba conference promises to keep the same relaxed feel, but how the weather patterns have changed. The Carnival of Flowers has just finished and the city has not looked better. May 2012 should not be any different.

The conference will be held from May 17th to 20th at the Toowoomba Motel and Events Centre. There are a range of accommodation options from three star at the conference venue, to four star just next door. All are well priced and only 5 minutes by car from the city centre. Toowoomba is very well serviced from Brisbane Airport with shuttle buses running every two hours starting at 8.00am. Book through www.theairportflyer.com.au and it won't even cost you the money saved by not paying CBD motel rates.

The theme of "Sustainability – for Food and Business" will have speakers touching on subjects relating to the changing consumer perceptions of eco sustainability to the cold hard realities of doing business in these times. The field tour on the Friday will take us to a couple of nurseries and an advanced tree farm finishing at the historic Jondaryan Woolshed for some evening networking and some plain old fashioned good fun.

Start your planning now as there is much to see and do in Toowoomba and surrounds prior to the conference. As well, there is planned a post conference day tour travelling from the conference venue back to Brisbane via several nurseries, look for further details in the coming months.

- Brad Skinner



**PROFILE
Clive
Larkman**

Just looking at Clive's active involvement with so many horticultural and political bodies outside

his nursery makes me wonder how he manages. He is our IPPS treasurer, past president and was acknowledged with the Award of Honour in 2010. Clive is an accredited Nursery Professional (specialist) with a degree in Botany and Zoology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Philosophy of Science. Clive and Di Larkman own Larkman Nurseries, a specialist tubestock producer at Lilydale Victoria. I recall that they were some of the first people to come and talk to me when I attended my first IPPS conference over ten years ago. So now I have the opportunity to ask some questions of Clive.

What are the things that you feel have created your standing in the industry?

I feel that my passion for communicating about plants and their uses through training, public speaking and writing has built up a reputation for a broad knowledge about plants. I have a strong ethical position on plant naming and making sure that the plant is supposed to be is what it is. I have also been a person who sees a need in the industry and will fill it (if I can). In the lavender industry I am recognised as a person who has learned what is correct and is not, and am then willing to distribute this knowledge.

What do I have to share with others (particularly new members) of the IPPS regarding the world of propagation?

I think the main point about IPPS is our old motto 'Seek and Share' Long before I had ever heard about IPPS or even knew about our industry this was how I lived. I think the message to new members is this plus a strong ethical stand on doing it right. As the propagator they are critical in making sure that plants are correctly named and indentified. If they get it wrong it may have major repercussions long after the plant has left their workplace - maybe decades later.

What are the significant things you have personally gained through IPPS membership?

Friendship and the personal satisfaction of seeing so many people benefit from what we do. Since becoming an active member I have seen us grow in size, become financially secure and expand our sphere of influence. I have also become part of a network of people with knowledge that they freely share amongst themselves and others.

Plant Hormones and Growth Regulators

Recently one of the Australian suppliers withdrew their powder forms of IBA used for cuttings. This has led to a few members expressing the need for an article on alternatives.

Plant hormones are naturally occurring organic substances which influence physiological processes at low concentrations. These processes mainly include: growth, differentiation and development. Moderate and difficult-to-root plant species can prevent producers from realizing their full potential as propagators. Commonly the application of auxin-based, commercially available rooting hormones is the key to overcoming this challenge. The effects of plant hormones depend largely on the target tissues and the chemical environment in which these tissues find themselves.



Auxins: Indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) is the main auxin in most plants, and it is synthesized from tryptophan or indole primarily in apical buds and young leaves, and developing seeds. It is transported from cell to cell and transport to roots probably involves the phloem. Growers have often pinched the tips of the plants in order to promote extensive branching and to keep plants short and sturdy.

Synthetic auxins mimicking IAA are used in horticulture as they are more stable. Rooting products such as naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) or indolebutyric acid (IBA) are typically basally applied at concentrations of 500-1,500 ppm for softwood cuttings, and 1,000 to 3,000 ppm for woodier tissue, to concentrations of 5,000 to 10,000 ppm for semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings. At times higher concentrations of 15,000 to 30,000 ppm are necessary but not now readily available. Auxin type herbicides (e.g., 2-4-D) are also used in tissue culture for these purposes with other materials. Optimally cuttings will develop with the basal portion showing some swelling, then callus tissue forms and root initials emerge just above the cutting base.

Blythe and Sibley in IPPS Proceedings (p406 Vol 53, 2003) have reported on the use of auxin as a

Label Concentration Guide
10,000 ppm = 1% w/w = 1 g/100g

foliar spray application (KNAA showing a response) and by incorporation in pretreated plugs. This followed from earlier papers by Blythe, Sibley and Tilt in IPPS Proceedings (p 393 Vol 52, 2002 and p275 Vol 53, 2003). Low levels of hormone were shown to be more effective. In decreasing sensitivity to hormone are roots, buds and stems with negative responses at higher concentrations. In some literature Fulvic acid is claimed to improve the cellular transport of auxins, potentially reducing the concentration needed.

There are many ready to use forms of IBA commercially available such as the Clonex range of gels and powder forms to similar concentrations readily available from suppliers such as Garden City plastics. In addition there are water dilutable solutions such as Esi-Root available, that may be diluted for dips or spray application.

The potassium salt of IBA (K-IBA) is water soluble and IBA and NAA are alcohol soluble. Each of these chemicals is available from Sigma Aldrich or can be found on eBay. An ethanol based stock solution of 50,000 ppm IBA is made by dissolving 5 grams IBA in 95 grams ethanol (of greater than 75% purity). A powder form of 15,000 ppm could then be made by adding 30 grams of this solution to 98.5 grams of sterile talc, and the alcohol evaporated off. Or you could weigh 1.5 grams IBA and dissolve in the minimum amount of ethanol. Alternatively a gel could be made by dissolving 2 to 3grams of guar gum (to get right viscosity) in 68 ml of sterile distilled water (about 20 minutes at 80 C), cool and add 30 grams of the stock solution with stirring. Food colourants may be used to identify strength. Always use fresh and store in a sealed sterile containers in a cool place dark place.

Cytokinins (Cks) are adenine derivatives (such as zeatin) having an ability to induce cell division in

tissue culture (in the presence of auxin). They are produced in the plant's roots and move upwards through the plant to the growing tips. As the roots system grows larger, it produces more cytokinins, which signals the plant to grow and branch more. The major commercial use for cytokinins comes from their ability to delay senescence and maintain greenness. Kelp based products contain Cks in easy to apply liquids and aid stem growth and branching. A mist spray application in early flowering may help extend flowering. Sterilized coconut milk is used in tissue culture for stimulating shoot development as it contains cytokinins. Benzyladenine is the main artificial cytokinin used - to prolong the storage life of plants post harvest.

Gibberellins - the most widely available compound is GA3, or gibberellic acid (a fungal product). GA1 is the most important gibberellin in plants and is primarily responsible for stem elongation by promoting cell elongation and cell division. They are naturally synthesized in young tissues of the shoot and developing seed. Hence the use of GA to break dormancy of some seed and elongate stems for cut flower growers. Registered uses are for seedless grapes, and citrus.

Ethylene (C₂H₄) is a gas synthesized from methionine in many tissues in response to stress - in particular in tissues undergoing senescence or ripening.

Ethylene can enhance the ripening of fruits such as bananas in storage. In some regions an ethylene-producing liquid chemical: 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid (Ethephon) is used often in combination with a non-ionic wetter is available for application to apples, barley, cherries, grapes, citrus, macadamia, peaches, pineapples, sugar cane, tomatoes and cotton. It is sprayed onto the plant at a slightly acid pH and on entering the cells it

breaks down to release ethylene. In 2000 Peter Goodwin (University of Sydney) produced a report NY99047 for HAL (HRDC) with contributions from Oasis Horticulture investigated the use of ethephon on petunias showing a major release of ethylene occurred 2 hours from application as opposed to tomatoes where it was claimed to take 2 days.

Abscisic Acid (ABA) appears to have little role in either abscission or bud dormancy. While spray applications can inhibit growth in a plant, it appears to act as much as a promoter. It is synthesized from mevalonic acid in the roots and mature leaves, particularly in response to water stress. ABA leads to stomatal closure (water stress), inhibits shoot growth, and affects the induction and maintenance of some aspects of dormancy in seeds.

There are many other types of regulators to consider:

growth retardants: chlormequat, daminozide, flurprimidol, mefluidide, tetcyclacis, uniconazole

growth stimulators: brassinolide, brassinolide-ethyl, DCPTA, forchlorfenuron, hymexazol, prosuler, pyripropanol, triacontanol

unclassified plant growth regulators: numerous

Growers need to be cautious when applying hormones to plants as they could be detrimental to development. Handle synthetic hormones with caution, follow advice on the label and MSDS. No one hormone controls plant processes; plants rely on a balance of hormones and are influenced by environmental factors.

Bruce Higgs

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS – SYDNEY CONFERENCE 2011

This year question time occurred at the end of each session, and we have tried to capture some of this for members.

Question for Kevin Handreck – At the Royal botanic gardens they've

had a history of steaming the soil, so not only do we get it from a reputable company but we are told to steam it and it is steamed at 65 to 70 degrees - so we are killing off whatever good things we have. So would you suggest not steaming or steaming at a lower temperature?

Is this just general growing media or is it propagation media?

We use one for everything and add in ourselves. The basis of our mix is pine bark.

I think it is a waste of money. I mean it is expensive to steam considering the equipment and the ongoing energy cost. So I think it is counterproductive in many situations to steam treat the mix. The material is being delivered to you at a relatively low temperature and then you are killing off suppressiveness from friendly microorganisms. It will come back slowly but it can be quite counterproductive.

If you purchase a general potting mix and within a week you have fungal fruiting bodies coming out of the top would you be concerned?

It depends what the mushrooms are and what the fruiting bodies are. Most of them in fact will be quite benign. There will be some sort of organisms that are actually decomposing organic matter in there and under particular temperature and moisture conditions they will automatically send up their fruiting bodies because that is what they do. In all the instances that I have ever seen, there are times when you get a huge number of queries of the same thing and it is always because of the particular environmental conditions that allow that.

In all the cases I've seen they've all been quite benign. Sometimes they will be aesthetically not pleasing and you don't want to send them off to customers otherwise they will think they are diseased but almost always what I've seen is they are quite benign and you can just brush them

off the top and they will be okay. And you will see the mushroom growing through the media and that will eventually breakdown anyway and disappear.

In the delivered mix wouldn't you assume it had been pasteurised in a week or two. No not necessarily at all it might have been cured and composted for some time. It is just that those particular conditions that are in there are conducive to that particular fungus doing that sort of thing and generally I don't think it is worthwhile worrying about.

Charlie Parkerson

Charlie in your presentation you had a photo of landscapers/people in the landscaping industry that you would have been supplying. I just wondered the benefit of your experience for growers and how we become price makers instead of price takers in supplying landscapers.

That's a whole dissertation I think, but in any deal both the right and left hand have got to come out of the deal and if we don't were going to lose. Somebody has gotta lose you know. You know that after the deal with the Ford dealer where you say "you know I got a terrific deal on my truck" cos he wants my next one. Hell if he didn't make money on that one we just bought he's not going to be around to sell you the next one. And we are just hoping that we can raise up the level of everything we charge for this, and initially when we started doing these training programs it was free and free don't

work. So we charge them but we give them a credit after they have made so many purchases or what have you but there is no free lunch



and when we changed that around our professionalism went up. ... but we are trying to appeal to a broad spectrum of these people and we bring in some top notch speakers that are very expensive but it is well worth it. We will also have the same speaker develop a topic over a course of several nights so it would be an all week type of seminar and a guy could come in at night and it is going to be a design thing or whatever.

In the USA we have distribution centres where people buy from a multitude of growers and they distribute and people come to them for convenience.

We have a portion and that is what this was geared towards. Every year we sell something like ¾ million dollars worth of rock, stone products, pavers. I love it cos that sort of stuff they don't die and you don't have to water them ... I love it.

And we just want to try and elevate things, and before setting the price we would like to think that they realise that we have got a fair price and that we are not the only game in town. I've got a favourite adage I call it my back pocket theory. I've got an "in" pocket and I've got an "out" pocket and I want in to stay in and out, out and then Mamas happy so that's it.

Charlie I think you touched on what is a big challenge for the Australian industry and that is it is not a technical but a perception issue. How do you see this and is the US doing anything to change the perception of plants to make them an essential item rather than a luxury.

NO, it breaks my heart that we have not been able to come forth and say you got to have our products for people to live. Where are our customers going to be in the next little bit. So right now we have got an oversupply of stuff in the US. We have got nurseries that are going down.

Question for Jim Johnson – (concerning his talk on pest identification)

Jim I don't know a lot about this cold climate stuff from where I come from, but it seems to me a lot of these things are universal and in our place it is the experts who we find out from over time. How do we get a database or photo database of that sort of thing and have it available so that the expertise isn't lost and is available. How could you do it in the states and how should we do it here?

As far as I know no one is really doing it in the states, it seems to get lost everytime someone leaves. How do you do it. You have to have someone who is willing ... it is a combination of things, someone willing to compile it. From the consumer viewpoint I think there should be a call for it and the donation of information to build the database.

Right now we have got a wonderful opportunity to build them because we do have computer systems that can manage the information quite effectively. In the past it was much more difficult and things do get lost.

The universities are not much help in the US, they have a habit of where they go through cycles and just get rid of people to bounce things out with no real regard for the future.

From my perspective I am gradually building the database that I have, but it doesn't deal with all plants. And I hope that I can last long enough so that I can continue doing it for a while. I don't have any good answers for you but I guess what it comes down to has to be a partnership between academics, breeders and growers and it has to have someone who is the main receiver to get the information into the database.

Could ipps take a leadership role in this ... yes they could.



Nursery Propagation Manager

Do you like to be hands on?

Do you have experience?

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Salary Negotiable

Plantrite is a young, dynamic business that specialises in providing quality tube stock plants to the revegetation and landscape industries.

We are looking for a highly motivated person with an eye for detail, to be based at our Mundaring WA nursery. As Propagation Manager you will have a very good understanding of the requirements for successful cutting propagation including temperature, humidity and light and be able to manipulate these accordingly. You will require knowledge of a broad range of native plants, their growing requirements and specific propagation techniques. This hands on role will require you to meet targets, follow and develop procedures for propagation techniques and manage pest and diseases.

Requirements

- A minimum of 5 years industry experience in propagation
- Sound knowledge of pests & diseases, and their control measures
- Hard working, enthusiastic with a passion for learning
- Excellent record keeping skills
- Love a challenge and overcoming problems

All applications and enquiries to:

David Lullfitz
Managing Director
david@plantrite.com.au

Challenge

I had a call from Bruce this afternoon chasing me up on this 'Challenge' copy, and as is usually the case we discuss what I might write about. I have been rather challenged over the last 6 weeks myself as I work on an interesting weed project for NGIA.

Bruce put an interesting comment into our discussion when he asked me what it was that I found most challenging in my career as a

propagator. I didn't have a lot of trouble answering this question. My biggest challenge was to take on those 'very difficult to propagate plants', you know the ones, those that you just can't buy because the 'Tubie' finds it uneconomical to grow them and try and find a way. There was one in particular that I really enjoyed and that was getting a good strike rate on *Osmanthus fragrans*. I did work it out in the end with very high percentages rooting.

So here is my challenge: **Is there a plant out there that you want to take on? I bet there is !!!**

Well get into working it out, use the awesome knowledge base that is IPPS and do some "Seeking". Hey, at the end of the day there might be a 'Paper' in it. Even if your research failed, write it up and let us all know what doesn't work but best of all share your successes with all of us.

Mmmmm ... Maybe I should write up my *Osmanthus* work for a paper at a future conference.

Michael Gleeson

News & Events

For those that did not know Scotts Professional is now Everris. This is their press release announcing this:

Building on four generations and 40 years of Osmocote technologies, the change of name from Scotts Professional to Everris represents greater support and a renewed focus on development and innovation.

The global purchase of the professional side of The Scotts Company provides Everris with a dedicated focus on professional growers. Our name may be new, but our product portfolios, renowned for their innovation, performance and precision remain the same.



Dr Sam Stacey – Recently appointed Technical Manager for Everris has moved to Sydney with his family. I hope he now considers joining IPPS

Over the coming year, you will see positive changes to the packaging of our range. You will notice fresh new packaging in the market replacing the Scotts brand with the Everris brand. All individual product brands that you are familiar with like Osmocote, Peters, Osmoform, Rout and others remain unchanged they are simply now marketed by Everris rather than Scotts.

This comprehensive range of plant nutrition and protection products can be tailored for all growing situations and to the exacting needs of individual plants.

Still supported by the original Scotts Professional team across Australia and New Zealand, we will strive to bring you the most advanced nutrition and plant protection solutions.

To learn more about how Everris can provide complete solutions for your business and crop needs, please contact your local distributor at www.everris.com.au/distributors or your Everris Sales Manager.

Newsletter Editors Comment

Spring as always is a busy time, so all the contributions from members deserve extra acknowledgement. Thank you Pam for your efforts so far in transcribing "question time" from the recording.

I hope you like the new look for our newsletter. As promised I am seeking input on the international scene now, I believe that we need reminding that we belong to an international society. If you can help with something for a feature article on weeds or plant breeding please contact me.

Don't forget that this newsletter and some past copies are also available on the IPPS website at www.ipps.org.au, and pass your extra copy of the newsletter around at work.

Bruce Higgs - editor
"the Propagator" (02) 4736 5004
bruce.higgs@bigpond.com

IPPS CALENDAR 2011

Eastern Region,	Oct. 19 - 22	Louisville, Kentucky
North America		
Southern Region of	Oct 23 - 26	Valdosta, Georgia
North America		