

apart, but after a trial on a couple of houses it was found that with the hoops at 8 foot intervals they would still stand up to the 50 or 60 inches of snow which falls every winter. Every house had half its hoops removed and these were moved down to Carolina for erecting.

Propagation was carried on in New Jersey for a couple of years while the growing side was being built up down south by Jeremy, and it was during one of the main plant moving periods that a major catastrophe occurred. A 40-foot truckload of plants left the old nursery, supposedly bound for North Carolina but, the trucker had other ideas and hi-jacked the lot. The truck and plants disappeared including the entire stocks of some cultivars. There seemed to be no chance of recovering the plants. The situation was well publicized in the "American Nurseryman" and, to cut a long story short, the whole load was recovered essentially intact. The plants had been sold by the hi-jackers to various retail outlets as far south as Florida and Alabama for only a fraction of their value but, fortunately, after hearing of Wells' crisis, the retail nurserymen contacted them and almost all the stocks were recovered — some a little worse for wear.

Since I left the States the new nursery has expanded rapidly; 130,000 rhododendrons and 60,000 deciduous azaleas are being propagated this year and Jeremy is hoping to double the quantity within 3 years.

QUESTION BOX

CHAIRMAN — B. MACDONALD

1. When growing holly cuttings in double glass frames, would leaf drop be caused by a) too high a temperature, b) too high a light intensity, or c) any other factor? The cuttings were taken in late September and dipped in Seradix 3

VOICE: I got leaf fall when the cuttings were too close in the bed.

DOUG HARRIS: I always assumed it was the high temperatures.

B. MacDONALD: Could it be too high an air temperature? My experience particularly with *Ilex aquifolium* types is that they are prone to this, taken in late August or early September.

2. Have any members tried the new range of Vitax Q.S. fertilizers? If so with what results?

VOICE: We have just completed a small trial but it is still too early for the results?

3. Have any members evidence of a build up of Specific Replant Disease in older layer or stool beds?

D. HARRIS: There is no evidence of this in rhododendron layer beds that have been used for 40 years now. I thought there was a replant problem on roses at one time but we found no evidence for this.

4. Arthur Carter said "Netting is more durable than polythene" — this is not born out by our experience, i.e. Netting does not last for us more than 2 or 3 seasons.

Before we start could we establish what sort of netting is used, was it hand stitched or purchased by the roll, and how did it deteriorate and break down?

J. ANSTEY: We usually use Rokolene.

A. CARTER: Some that are still going strong, mainly Nicofence 31, and 17/28.

D. CLARK: We have had some up for 3½ years, problems have been mainly holes and ladders.

J. GAGGINI: It looks as though we should use the polypropylene rather than the polythene type.

D. CLARK: A word of warning especially on thermal screens. Starch is used in the final stages of manufacture and a fairly harmless fungi has caused some discoloration.

5. Would it be an advantage to test Long Ashton clones in other parts of the country?

I. CAMPBELL: Obviously there would be advantages in getting in as many places as possible but it's a question whether they can cope. Obviously some of the clones selected will not be suitable for Aberdeen. I suspect that they would do differently in different parts of the country. The easiest way of comparing what we are growing is to bring some onto the nursery and, if they are no better, then keep as you are.

A. CARTER: I think one of the problems is that of communication. We know that some growers have not read of the scheme in the trade press. If you could see the selected plants in different parts of the country then more growers would be keen on it.

6. Could I.P.P.S. members be circulated as to subjects to be sent for trial?

I. CAMPBELL: I would agree with this, for notices in the press are ineffective.

T. WOOD: It could be included in the I.P.P.S. newsletter.

D. CLARK: I discussed this with Brian after yesterday's discussion and he agreed that communications could not rely on the press, but he would investigate sending a circular via the HTA/NFU circulation list.

T. WOOD: Clonal selection is very dear to us and we do want to keep it going.