

In conclusion, we know that the procedures outlined are more time consuming than other methods, but we feel the product produced is more successful. We additionally feel we have a much greater control over our products.

## Freeze Damage on *Taxus* Cutting Wood

**Edward R. Fox and Bill Molter**

Home Nursery, Inc., P.O. Box 307, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Recently, we experienced a propagation problem at Home Nursery when freeze damaged *Taxus* cutting wood was used. Historically, we have always taken taxus cuttings from field grown plants rather than the container grown ones. In the fall of 1990, we switched and began taking our cuttings from container grown plants because harvesting was easier and quicker due to closer plant spacing. In addition, because the plants were in covered polyhouses, the cuttings could be taken during bad weather.

Last fall we planned to compare the performance of cutting wood taken from containers with that from field plants. We began with cuttings from field plants and then proceeded to take them from the containers. However, in early November we experienced several days of record to near record lows. A record low of 8°F on November eighth was 7°F below the previous record on that day. At the time there were no visible signs of damage to the taxus and we were more concerned about the fate of some of our container grown broadleaved plants.

Problems began to appear in late December with the field cuttings in the propagation beds. Some cuttings were showing basal rot with many more exhibiting necrotic spots up and down the stems. Needle drop was also occurring. For a while we thought we might lose all of the field cuttings. As it turned out our losses from the field cuttings were 16% versus 4% from the cuttings taken from the protected container yews. The field cuttings also exhibited more uneven bud break this last spring. The following spring the longer shoots left on field plants die back to the body of the plant.

This near miss, so to speak, just served to reinforce something that we already knew—beware if anything changes, such as the occurrence of a freeze of this magnitude. In hindsight we should have made a conscious decision as to whether or not to use the wood from the field grown plants before we ever began to take the cuttings.

## Overwintering Rooted Cuttings of *Viburnum carlesii*

**Jon D. Pickerill**

The Wilson Nursery Group, 43W967 State Route 72, Hampshire, Illinois 60140

*Viburnum carlesii*, and its hybrids and cultivars, have typically been a high-demand and short-supply item at Wilson Nurseries. As a propagator, I'm sure I'm not alone in having been frustrated countless times by this plant. Numerous mistakes and many dead plants later, I have learned a few things about these viburnums which I would like to share.