

## PROPAGATION OF COTINUS COGGYGRIA

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Though seed is the common method of production of *Cotinus coggygia* or Smoke Bush, we are discussing the vegetative propagation of desirable clones. The variety *rubrifolia* is the commonest known. There was at one time a variety *pendula* but it is the variety *atropurpurea* which I consider most attractive. Strangely enough, although our parent stock came originally from Boskoop, it cannot now be procured from that source, which shows how easily the reproduction of good things can lapse.

Propagation by layering presents no special problem. Branches are pinned down to the ground in spring in the usual manner. Some hilling up of the young shoots is done as they develop, and both the layered branches and the young shoots develop roots the first year. As in many other cases, it is not the technique of layering but the separation and after-care which requires skill. With us, *Cotinus coggygia* is on its northern limit of hardiness, and the young shoots tend to winter-kill, particularly if wintered in a damp situation. This plant requires a dry situation preferably in rich loam, and plants intended for layering should be established on well drained land.

A previous batch of rooted layers which were separated from the parent plants at the end of the first season, were slow in getting re-established after separation. I do not think it is a good plan to leave layers on the parent stock two years as the tops grow too strong, and the would be new plants tend to again draw too much on the old root for sustenance.

This fall, we are trying something new to us. Instead of cutting up each rooted segment to form a new individual plant, we are lifting whole branches of layers to be lined out intact for one more year. We then plan to complete separation into individual plants at the end of the second year. For winter protection, these separate layered branches are being stored in a cold pit. We would be glad to compare notes with others who may have had more experience in layering *Cotinus coggygia* than we have had.

MODERATOR COLE: Thank you, Mr Hancock. This is another of the many interesting things you have brought to this meeting.

The next speaker is Mr. George Blyth, of the McConnell Nursery Co., Limited, Port Burwell, Ontario, to present the topic, "Propagation of Evergreen Grafts in Electric Cable Frames."

MR. GEORGE BLYTH: Thank you Mr. Cole.

Mr. Blyth presented his paper which was followed by a series of colored slides (Applause)