

To

Date

Wednesday December 10, 2008

3 pages from Sonja Peters

The “CanWest Industry Tour” was part of the CanWest Horticulture Show.

This event is sponsored by the BC Landscape Nursery Association. The tour reported in this report, the “Mountains & Meadows”, was held September 19 from Vancouver.



VAN BELLE NURSERIES



*Above: Picture of the Dutch rolling bench system.
Plants are rolled out on benches and then placed on the ground for winter.*

VALLEYBROOK GARDENS

Valleybrook Gardens started in 1980 and is now grow on 25 acres.

They grow brand lines (Heritage Perennials, Jeepers Creepers®) not sold to big box stores. Cuttings are from Costa Rica. Their trials indicate faster rooting than in-house cuttings.



Above: Plug transplanting machine. Any size plug tray can be placed in the machine. The operator uses the “poppers” to push the plugs from trays (above) to containers (below).

Below: Pruning machine to cut perennial cuttings and seedlings.

The grower comments this pruning machine produces a more uniform crop.

The goal after transplanting is for each plant to look the same.



VAN BELLE NURSERIES



*Above: Picture of the Dutch rolling bench system.
Plants are rolled out on benches and then placed on the ground for winter.*

KATO NURSERIES



*Above: An automatic staple machine to staple the sticks onto a pot for clematis.
This process was stated to be "faster and safer".*