

To

Date

August 30, 2010

3 pages from Sonja Peters

28th PERENNIAL PLANT SYMPOSIUM



This 7-day conference was held in Portland, July 18 to 24.

Organized by the Perennial Plant Association
www.perennialplant.org.

About 533 people attended.

From Canada (23 persons):

Vallybrook Gardens Ltd. (BC)

Phoenix Perennials & Specialty Plants Ltd (BC)

Pride and Place Plants, Inc. (BC)

Connon Nurseries (ON)

Solar Thermal for Nurseries

by Grace Dinsdale Blooming Nursery, Cornelius, Oregon www.bloomingnursery.com

- owned and operated by Grace Dinsdale, started 29 years ago
- currently 130 acres: 40,000 ft² propagation greenhouse, 60,000 ft² heated greenhouse, 150,000 ft² cool greenhouse and cold frames, 45 acres of field
- wholesale: perennials, perennials & annuals, groundcovers, herbs, shrubs and vines

Solar Thermal System



- project net value \$209,000
- installation took 14 months and was completed this summer
- glycol runs through the collectors, glycol transports and transfers the heat to a 270,000 gallon water tank, heated water then runs under the greenhouse floor
- system heats 4830 m² (52,000 ft²) of greenhouse space (1 of their 3 GHs)
- currently applying for a 50 percent tax write-off -- available under Oregon's Business Energy Tax Credit program
- 3.8 year return on investment

Developing and Sustaining Biocontrols in the Nursery

Slug Control and Biocontrol Programs

Robin Rosetta, Oregon State University

- slug control can be detrimental to biocontrol program
- Sluggo does not harm biocontrols
- sanitation is important – get rid of areas slugs love
- water in the morning (slugs will dry up during the day)
- use drip irrigation

Record Keeping

Krishna Reddy, Blooming Nurseries, Cornelius, Oregon

- a) Establish a process that maintains consistency
 - keep records of what and when bio-controls are being released
 - tool: monitoring and tracking pest populations www.ipmsuite.com (free)
 - if key staff leave, then new staff members can come into the job and continue the program and they will not have to begin again
- b) Timely release of biocontrol agents
 - for best control apply bio-controls before pest populations have a chance to establish
- c) Troubleshooting
 - reasons for pest populations rising, despite the release of bio-controls:
 - rate applied was not sufficient for the populations present
 - coverage was not enough
 - a chemical application was made that killed the predators

Hypoaspis miles at Hines Nurseries

Martha Sleeper, Hines Nurseries, Forest Grove, Oregon

- using *Hypoaspis* for 15 years to control fungus gnats
- lots of success, quality of rooted cuttings has improved
- using *Hypoaspis*
 - When: during first week of production in propagation
 - Rate: 1 litre per 93 m² (1000 ft²)
 - Number of applications: 1 applications is effective for 3-4 weeks
 - Monitoring: yellow sticky cards about 12-15" above the crop, check / replace weekly
 - Monitor cuttings weekly for fungus gnat larvae: threshold 5 larvae per 100 ft²

Bio-controls used at Iwasaki Bros. Inc.

By Timothy J Pfaffel, Iwasaki Bros. Inc., Hillsboro, Oregon

- Aphidoletes* (aphid control), *N. cucumeris* (trip control)
- Hypoaspis miles* (fungus gnat and thrip control), *E. formosa* (whitefly control)
- P. persimilis* (spider mite control), nematodes (fungus gnat control)

Bio-controls used at Monrovia Growers

Ron Tuckett, Monrovia Growers, Dayton, Oregon

- predators used *Neoseiulus fallacies*, *Hypoaspis miles*, *Atheta coriaria*, *Heterorbabditis bacteriophora*, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*, *Encarsia formosa*, *Steinernema carpocapsae*, *Steinernema feltiae*.
- predators work slower than chemicals, but have longer 'residual' activity
- saved 30 – 75% in chemical costs
- plant quality has increased

Xerophytic: Commerical Irrigation and Media for Plants that like it Dry

By Paul Bonnie, Xera Plants, Sherwood, Oregon www.xeraplants.com

Xera Plants is an independent garden retailers and designers.

Comments from Mr. Bonnie:

- growing media and water required is plant specific
- water with the climate and not against it
- xeric (drought-tolerant) plants– like high organic matter, high fertilizer
- natives – may respond better to organic fertilizers i.e. vermicompost

Xera Plants uses 4 different growing media

- high organic content (compost + peat) = standard mix
- well drained mix with pumice = for succulents
- well drained mix with high bark content = for broadleaf evergreens
- mix for Proteaceous plants (no phosphorus or calcium – they use iron to lock it up)

TERRA NOVA NURSERIES



Right: Greenhouse space at Terra Nova Nurseries.

World leaders in plant breeding of Heuchera, Tiarella, Echinacea, Coreopsis and Sedum, among other varieties.

Since 1991 Terra Nova has introduced 600 new varieties.



Right: Display gardens at Terra Nova Nurseries.

www.terranovanurseries.com

The gardens are used to showcase plants they have breed and introduced into the market.

Many of the locations on the tour had display gardens that showcase plants they sell.