

### Planting Tip

Speaking of planting, we remember a tip from 30 years ago and thought you may want to hear it. It comes from Dr. Mel Westwood, former professor of Horticulture at Oregon State U. He thought that when you backfill soil around a bare root plant, you should exclude any green foliage (weeds, leaves). He said that as these green materials decompose they release ethylene gas, which is toxic to those new white roots. It's been 30 years, but we bet that gas is still toxic.

### Allocation

Last year we did allocation a month late because we were breaking in a new software program. We had comments from customers that the extra time was appreciated.

This year, the weather and the economy has everyone wondering what they should do. So to relieve some of the stress, we will again postpone allocation until the first of August. We hope this extra time gives our customers a feeling of increased comfort about their orders. And then you can start planning your trip to the Far West Show. See you there!



## Planting Time

Welcome to our June '08' newsletter. In this article I would like to talk about our planting program. This year we planted our seedling and rooted cuttings the 2nd week of May. At this time most of the varieties are already leafed out and growing. Working the planting fields begins the previous fall with nutrient testing and lime application. Lime is worked in and the field is left bare. This allows the soil to dry out faster the following spring, making tillage a breeze. Spring weather in Oregon offers small windows of drying between rains, so this is important. When the field is ready, a soil insecticide is applied. Then the field is worked.

Planting begins with our 4 row trencher, which makes furrows for planting.

Spacing wheels are used so that planting can be accurate. Plant spacing in the rows ranges from 12" to 18" depending on the plant and amount of time it will be growing in our fields. Our row width is 50 inches. Our trencher also installs drip tape off to the side of each row.

Employees stick the plant in the trench and step on both sides packing the soil around the plant. A seasoned planter may stick as many as 6000 plants in a 9 hour day.

After planting, a cultivator is used to level the soil around the plant. Sometimes more than one cultivation is required.

Pre-emergent herbicide is applied next with a 50 gallon sprayer on a small tractor. Nozzles are set on

each side of the row to spray a band. Our primary herbicides on spring planting are Devrinol and Gallery.

All plantings are watered with overhead irrigation within 24 hours. This settles the soil around the roots and activates the herbicide. New plantings are sprinkler irrigated every 3 to 7 days until plants are rooted in. At that time the drip tape is activated. The drip irrigation buried next to the rows allows us to carry on our nursery tasks while watering and/or applying fertiligation.

We have a great planting crew. This year they planted over 600,000 plants in 6 1/2 days.

Hope you all have a successful year,

Rick

