Products and Services

A New Postemergence, Nonselective Herbicide

Finale[R] (glufosinate) is now registered for use in nursery seedbeds and noncrop areas and controls both annual and perennial weeds, although thorough coverage is required. It is chemically similar to Roundup[R] (glyphosate) and is faster acting, but with limited systemic activity, is less effective on tougher perennials. Finale' is applied like Roundup[R], as a directed or shielded spray, with precautions not to contact foliage or bark of the crop plants. It also is inactivated upon contact with the soil and so has no residual. As with all new pesticides, send for a copy of the product label to get more detailed information before considering use.

Source:
Derr, J.F. 1994. Something to Grow On: Alabama's Ornamental Newsletter.
Fall, 1994. Auburn, AL: Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

Root Pruning Chemical

By now, I'm sure you have seen or heard about the use of copper compounds to chemically root prune container seedlings (Figure P). A new product, called Spin Out[R], is being marketed by the Griffin Corporation. Although many homemade copper compounds have been used, Spin Our is the only commercially available copper product that is registered for controlling root development in container tree seedlings. It is currently registered in the US, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan and registration is pending in Canada. Spin Out[R] can be applied to the inside wall of the cavities in either styrofoam blocks or plastic containers, where it prunes the lateral roots and creates a more fibrous root system. Chemical root pruning offers several other biological and operational advantages:

* Improved water and nutrient uptake

* Easier extraction from containers during harvesting

* Reduces the possibility of root disease transmission in used containers

* More stable trees after outplanting

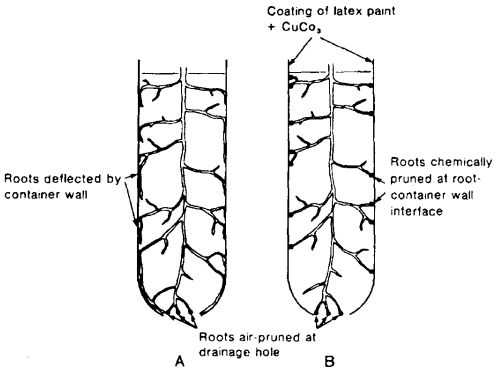

Figure P. Roots can be chemically pruned by coating the inside of the container cavity with copper compounds

For more information:

Griffin Corporation
PO Box 1847
Valdosta, GA 31603
PHONE: 800-242-8635
FAX: 713-952-3328

Source:
Herzinger, K. 1994. Grow quality forest seedlings with Spin Outs.
Houston, TX: Griffin Corp.

Growing Media with Coconut Fiber

Nurseries in tropical countries have been using the coir pith from the husks of coconuts as a component of their growing media for many years. Now, the Scotts Company has introduced a new line of media based on this totally renewable resource. Sphagnum peat moss has traditionally been the standard basis for all artificial soils but trials at Michigan State and North Carolina State University have shown equal or superior performance. Coir pith wets faster and more thoroughly because its fibers do not initially repel water like peat fibers, and these new media also shrink less that peat-based products. Greater total porosity means better root growth and plug formation, and the cation exchange capacity of coir mixes is equal to or greater than typical peat-vermiculite media. Because coir is inherently free from debris sometimes found in peat moss, containers fill more easily. Growers also report fewer problems with algae and fungus gnats when using coir-based media.

Of course, the true test of any product is how well it works under your own operational conditions. For more information of Redi-Earth® and Metro Mix® 366 Coir Mixes, contact your local Scotts distributor:

	Phone	FAX
Atlanta, GA	800-233-1298	404-255-8735
Allentown, PA	800-548-3071	610-395-0322
Richardson, TX	800-243-6560	214-669-3754
Milpitas, CA	800-233-1297	408-263-8944

Computer-assisted Transplanting

Transplanting seedlings is one of the oldest cultural practices in forest and conservation nurseries. In nurseries during the first half of this century, all seedlings were transplanted at least once (sometimes twice) and it was always done by hand (Figure Q). In modern nurseries, almost all transplanting is now done mechanically. The Silver Mountain Equipment company has developed a way to convert standard transplanters to computer drive systems that increase the speed and efficiency of transplanting, which means higher quality transplant stock. Traditionally, mechanical transplanting equipment has lacked a ground drive system

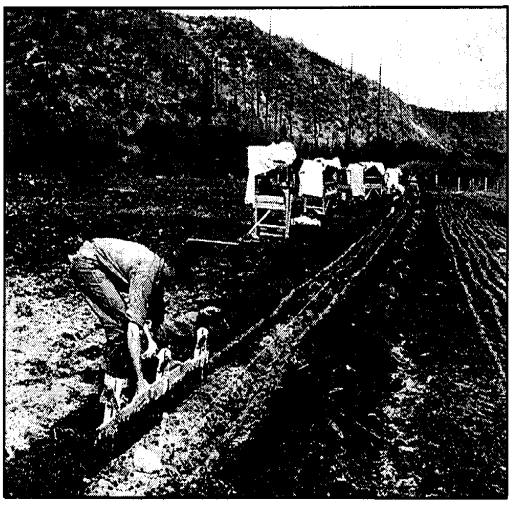

Figure Q. In early forest nurseries, all seedlings were transplanted by hand and often more than once.

that will not slip with changes in surface soil conditions or during wet weather. The new computer drive system provides steady measured ground speed which permits accurate spacing of the transplants and virtually eliminates J-roots with properly adjusted equipment. At the present time, Silver Mountain is offering custom conversion of existing transplanters, but they have also been approached by commercial manufacturers to supply the Computer Drive Systems under a licensing agreement. For more information, contact:

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PHONE: 503-769-7127
FAX: 503-769-3549