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A low-tech, inexpensive subirrigation system for production of broadleaved species in large containers

| Justin L Schmal, Phillip O Woolery, John P Sloan, and Clark D Fleege

ABSTRACT

A simple, inexpensive subirrigation system can be made using children's plastic swimming pools. This system supplies irrigation water more evenly to large deciduous plants in containers than do overhead methods, and it can be combined with a typical injector so that plants can be fertigated.

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KEY WORDS

irrigation, fertilization, container nursery

NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2007)

For those of us who grow broadleaved plants in containers, we know that it is difficult to thoroughly, and evenly, distribute water because the foliage deflects irrigation applied from above. A hand-wand can be used to manually water such species, but this method requires time and personnel, and it is still difficult to obtain uniform water distribution. Subirrigation can solve this problem (Dumroese and others 2006); however, many subirrigation units are quite costly. At the USDA Forest Service Lucky Peak Nurs-