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## The Effect of Etiolation on Rooting of *Acer grandidentatum* Cuttings<sup>®</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

Bigtooth, or canyon, maple (*Acer grandidentatum* Nutt.) is of interest due to its fall color and potential use in low-water landscapes. Improved asexual propagation would facilitate the introduction and production of new clones from the wild. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of etiolation on rooting *A. grandidentatum* softwood cuttings.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Five selections of bigtooth maple (USU-ACGR-1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, and 1005), grafted onto seedling rootstocks of the same species and grown in a coppiced nursery environment were used. In late January 2009, trees were prepared for etiolation by pruning just below the third node from the base and leaving a stub above the second node. At bud swell, black velour drawstring bags with open ends were placed over the terminals of randomly selected shoots and tied off just below the second node (Fig. 1). When approximately two sets of fully expanded leaves had emerged from the bag, cuttings were harvested by removing the parent shoot above the first node (Fig. 2). Cuttings were prepared for sticking by removing the bags, cutting at the base of the current season's growth, removing the terminal above the



Figure 1. Terminals of pruned shoots covered with velour bags to etiolate new growth.