

Irrigation

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The experimental use of irrometers (clay cup tension devices) was reported by Pennsylvania. In the heavier soils found in Pennsylvania this instrument seems to hold more promise than the electrical resistance block. The electrical resistance blocks have proved very satisfactory at Saratoga where the soils are sandy.

Shortages of water at some nurseries may limit the use of water as a substitute for shade.

There were no reports of water plants or pollutants seriously interfering with the use of water on the nurseries. It was suggested that mineral contents should be watched to avoid build up of toxic materials. Excessive irrigation, especially in sandy soils of low cation exchange capacity can leach nutrients out of the root zone. Nitrates, which are anions, are particularly susceptible to leaching, but ammonium nitrogen may also be lost from acid soils when applied as sulfate or nitrate by excessive watering. Careful control of the duration of water applications was about the only remedy suggested.