

The 1964 Nursery Questionnaire

Everett Eliason

Most of the nurserymen at this meeting responded to this 1964 questionnaire on nursery practice. The first in 1954 was initiated by Herschel Abbott. The 1964 questionnaire was by Abbott and Eliason.

The 1954 questionnaire showed that:

Four southern hard pine species constituted 60% of U. S. production. 34% of all trees grown in United States were slash pine.

In 1964, 130 replies were received. The summaries of the replies will be published at a later date. Following are a few points of interest:

A. Southern Nurseries

1. Uniformity of operations is a characteristic of Southern nurseries.
2. Most nurseries use mineral spirits for weed control.
3. Most use tubs to transport trees to sheds for counting. Very few trees are counted in the field.
4. Most shipping is done by truck.

B. Other Nurseries

1. Variations in practice more common than in Southern United States.

General Information

Weed Control

75 out of 130 use mineral spirits at from 2 - 39 applications of

4 - 50 gal/A.

Cover Crops

46 out of 130 use rye, the most popular cover crop.

26 out of 130 use oats.

19 out of 130 use corn.

Soil Type

110 out of 130 are sandy soils.

pH

Average minimum 5.5

Average maximum 6.0

Fertilizer

92 nurseries use fertilizer on cover crops.

Organic Amendments

39 use sawdust.

Watering

123 use irrigation.

13 use instruments, the rest use observations of soil or rainfall measurement. Monthly applications are about equal to the average monthly rainfall, thus doubling the rainfall for the growing season.

29 use water as a substitute for shade.

Root Pruning

88 nurseries do some root pruning.

32 do none.

Cold Storage

29 use for over winter storage

45 use for spring storage

Counting

21 count in field

104 count indoors

12 count by weight

Some use volume

Some use bed inventory

Seedling Transport

44 use metal tubs

30 use crates or boxes

2 use wheelbarrows

Stock Grading

76 ship I grade after culling

25 (11 private, 14 state or federal) use 2 or more grades

wrapping

4 use boxes or crates

69 use paper

16 use polyethylene

12 use burlap

The general questionnaire serves the purpose of informing nurserymen how the other nurserymen are doing certain jobs.

The job of the nurseryman is to produce a seedling which will survive

at the planting site. The observations made in New York of old experimental plantings show that the primary influence of the nursery is on survival rather than on size after 15 or 20 years.

One of the best measures of a nursery operation is the number of surviving seedlings in the planting site which can be produced from a given amount of viable seed. A test of survival ability of seedlings using 4 reps, 12 variations, 6 species, will use only 1/2 acre of 3" x 3" spacing.

During the discussion period it was pointed out that the wide variation in mineral spirit applications reported were probably the result of variation in the content of the active ingredient, aromatic hydrocarbons.