

KRAFT BAGS AS SHIPPING CONTAINERS

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The Kraft bag size 20 x 5 x 40 inch, 1/50# NK wet strength was used to ship conifer and hardwood orders during the spring 1967 shipping season. Limited use was made to test this type of container. The Southern Michigan State Forest Nursery, Howell, Michigan used two thousand bags in shipments to State Forests and the public. The container was well received by the public and most of the comments were favorable.

Several large orders were sent to Soil Conservation Districts where the trees were to be distributed within two days of the delivered date. The stock was satisfactory, survival good and packaging from a time and cost consideration was very good.

The following are factors to be considered when using bags.

1. Completely dormant hardwoods and conifers may be held up to three weeks in bags under cold storage and be shipped without repacking.
2. Cold storage after transpiration should be limited to six or seven days and trees should be planted with one or two days after they have been removed from storage.
3. Stock should be dry, no dew or moisture on plant when it is packed. This helps prevent molding while stored and shipped.
4. As much soil as possible should be left clinging to the roots .
5. Stock should be removed from the bag and planted or heeled in within two days after it is received.
6. The cost factor is 20 to 30 cents each for bags and 50 to 75 cents for wrappers (burlap and wire) . On small orders 500 to 1000 trees packed in the bag is more economical, but on larger orders 1000 to + packing with wrappers would be more economical and desirable.

From limited experimental use of the Kraft bag indications are the bag could be an efficient and economical way to handle shipments and pick up orders that will be planted or heeled in within one week of the time they are removed from cold storage.

Note:

Samples of the Michigan bag with instructions on care and planting imprinted on the face of the bag were displayed.