

## COST REDUCTION IDEAS

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### FIELD GRADING

To begin, every effort is made to practice good soil management in the nursery. This includes soil sampling, correct fertilization, fumigation, organic material applied, good tillage, correct amount of seed per square foot, correct amount of mulch applied, irrigation, spraying for disease, grasses, and insects.

At Morgan Nursery we plant for 28 shippable seedlings per square foot. Twenty to 25 percent mortality is allowed for all causes including culls. Irrigation and fertilizer (top dressing) has to be watched very closely or seedlings will become too large for good mechanical planting. In August, if the seedlings are getting too large, we root prune approximately 8½ inches deep and repeat as often as needed according to rainfall.

In October, a crew culls the seedling beds taking out forks, crooked, and small seedlings. This operation costs approximately \$0.18 to \$0.20 per 1,000 seedlings.

Harvesting of seedlings normally begins about November 15, if there has been enough frost and cold temperatures.

### WEIGHING AND BALE COUNT

At the Morgan Nursery, seedlings are removed from the beds after the lifting blade and shaker have been passed 8 to 9 inches under the seedlings. Most of the dirt has been shaken from the roots which is important in weighing the seedlings.

Fifty seedlings are picked from five tubs and counted. These 50 seedlings are then weighed and multiplied by 10 to arrive at the weight of 500 seedlings. This is the amount weighed on scales and placed into tubs which are then passed by conveyer to packing stations. Ten percent of these weighed seedlings are pulled and counted by a checker. If the count varies too much, it is corrected

at this point. Two people continuously count and check. If the seedling size is average, the count is very consistent, but if the seedlings vary in size to a large degree, the count will naturally vary. A record is kept daily of these counts and at the end of each day counts are added and averaged. This average is also made for the entire shipping season. Averages have usually been quite close to 500.

We find, too, that small orders--those 500 to 8,000--will vary some. On orders of 10,000 and over, the amount received will usually run over. The small orders are filled with counted seedlings counted by checkers.

PACKING (KRAFT PAPER BAG)

	<u>Bag size</u>	
	2,000	500
Bag	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.35
Moss	.04	.03
Tape and thread	.05	.05
Other Ent. card	.04	.04
Tape to patch		--
Marking parts		∴
	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.47

All labor used in packing and weighing, checking and stacking = \$0.35 per 1,000.

All labor used in lifting and hauling = \$0.62 per 1,000.

SPECIFICATIONS ON KRAFT PAPER BAGS

Double wall kraft polyethylene bags with 11-inch gussets, 23½-inch face width, 36-inch face height. Polyethylene or urithene to be applied as a 10-pound laminate to the inner facing wall of 50 pound kraft. The outer wall to be of 50 pound kraft. Outer wall to have a minimum of 10 pound laminate of polyethylene after printing for weather protection. Bottom of bag to be taped (using high wet strength tape) and sewed stitching through tape.

Double wall bags, size 23½- x 11- x 36-inch = \$0.25 each

Double wall bags, size 23½- x 11- x 24-inch = \$0.35 each

(Special printing)

#### ADVANTAGES OF KRAFT PAPER BAGS

Stores well for as long as 3 weeks

Requires less moss

Ease of handling

Stays moist at all times in bag

Is much cleaner to handle

Use less storage space for empties