

CLOSING REMARKS BY SYMPOSIUM CHAIRMAN

W. J. Lucas
Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region
USDA Forest Service, Denver, Colorado

The key objective of this Symposium was to provide a forum for the exchange of information on biological, mechanical, and economic aspects of containerized forest seedling technology. I think this objective has been achieved, and I want to thank you personally for the fine participants you have been. I've never seen any better.

I know some of you were primarily seeking information for improving current container seedling systems. Others were interested in the development of whole new systems, and still others see the promise greenhouse systems offer in speeding tree selection and genetic improvement. To me, greenhouse systems offer a great opportunity to look at many more species and their potential. Particularly, I think it is important to look at species that have received little attention, such as bristlecone pine. This species, one of our oldest, may have growth hardiness, needle retention, and other characteristics that we probably need in Christmas tree culture, wildlife habitat improvement, and harsh urban environments.

I think this meeting was successful because we are dealing with an idea whose time has arrived. There is nothing like a timely idea to spark interest and insure lively participation. One of the real benefits from this meeting is the establishment of new lines of communication. Some of you may not realize it, but a great number of us realize that we have had a part in a significant event, in the fact that Bob Bohannon, the Director of Extension at Kansas State University and our Forestry Advisor from the Great Plains Agricul-

tural Council, has attended the whole Symposium! Last night Bob raised the question in Executive Committee -- where do we go from here?

I want to assure all of you that we will be addressing this question and pushing forward. Real progress, in my opinion, will continue to depend upon the individual initiative and the working together that we do to solve the research, educational, and operational problems at the local and the State level. I am sure this Symposium serves as an example of the way to deal with questions cooperatively.

At this time, I want to acknowledge the Committees that put the Symposium together. Would the Committee Chairmen stand and at the end we will give you a hand rather than separately:

Dick Tinus from Bottineau, North Dakota;
Dick Greffenius from Denver;
Dick Pardo from Washington, D.C.;
Marv Strachan from Fort Collins, Colorado;
and in the back there,
Wayne Hite from Bonner, Montana.
Let's give them a hand.

They have had many people helping them and to those people, who are too numerous to mention, our thanks are also extended. The Symposium Committee wants to extend thanks again to the sponsoring organizations and agencies and to the exhibitors. We thank these and all others that have made this meeting a success. God bless you as participants. I now close this Symposium.