

# MULTIBAG . . .

## New type container for tree seedlings

by

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A strip of flexible hags perforated at their base and joined sideways has proven useful as a seedling container. Called *Multibag*, these containers are made by heat-welding polyethylene tube or folded sheet of about 0.050 mm gauge to obtain any size from 3 to 6 cm in diameter and 10 to 20 cm in height.

The greatest advantage of the Multibag is the extreme ease of transport and manipulation of the "bundles" of 25-50 bags. In fact, there is no need for trays or crates.

The Multibag is very sturdy and can be manipulated without risk of harming the plants. Another advantage is that it allows the full utilization of nursery area or greenhouse space. Furthermore, filling the hags is easy and can be done at the rate of 500-700 bags of 4.5 cm in diameter x 20 cm in height per hour, using simple potting systems like the one recently described by Messner.<sup>2</sup>

An interesting feature of the Multibag is the possibility of unrolling the bundle in a spiral (or otherwise) in order to allow more growing space when necessary.

A hag of the size 4.5 cm diameter x 20 cm height is well suited for growing seedlings for 1 or 2 years in the nursery. For shorter periods, a 4 cm diameter x 15 cm height hag, or even 3 cm x 12 cm bags, would be sufficient.

Experiments with pines, eucalyptus,

<sup>1</sup> Patent has been applied for in the United States and Canada

<sup>2</sup> Messner, H.E. 1971. Potting soil dispenser works well, USDA. Forest Service. Tree Planters Notes, Vol. 22 (14) p. 14.

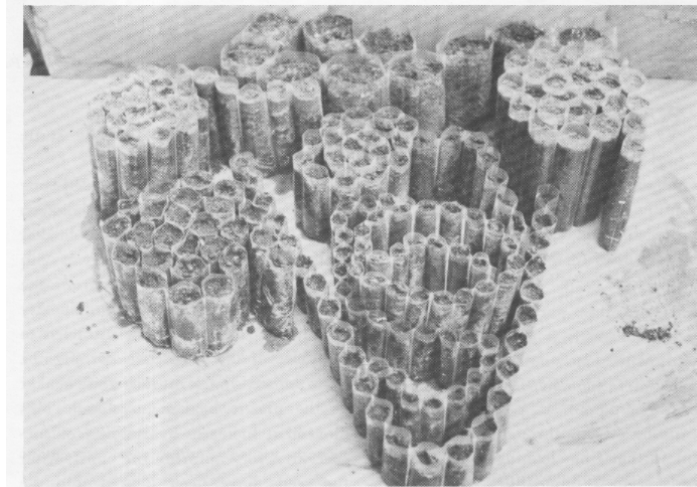


Figure 1.—Different types of Multibag — (from 3 cm x 10 cm to 10 cm x 22 cm)

Douglas-fir, cedar, spruce, and other species have met with considerable success at low cost, the technique compares very favorably with other types of containers such as polystyrene pots and peat pots. Multibag is also very suitable for the production of flowers or vegetable seedlings. The polyethylene bag should be removed or cut away when planted out.

Figure 2.—Douglas-fir seedling, 9 months old (3 cm x 15 & 20 cm.)



Figure 3.—Scots pine seedling, 9 months (4 cm x 10 cm)

