

INTRODUCTION TO PANEL DISCUSSION
ON VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION PROBLEMS

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Vegetative propagation and its associated problems are of paramount importance to the proper development of any tree improvement program. The establishment of adequate breeding collections, certain types of test plots, seed orchards, etc., are all dependent upon satisfactory manipulation of green thumbs, scions, season, and wax. Undoubtedly there is no one method that will fit all situations. Each research center, each research worker has to develop those techniques or "hybrids" of techniques which will best suit the local needs. And that is just what is happening! Air-layering of slash pine in Florida yields excellent results while air-layering on red pine in Quebec and in Wisconsin have been "rootless." Bottle grafting of slash pine in Florida gave promising results but not so in Wisconsin with red pine. Bare root grafting shows favorable grafting response for the southern pines and white pine. These and many other examples clearly illustrate that local species, site, and weather conditions play an important role in the development of satisfactory vegetative propagation techniques.

To help us understand and appreciate some of these problems, Keith Dorman and Mark Holst will discuss briefly some of the vegetative propagation projects under way at their respective stations. Should time permit, shall cover some of the work in progress here in Wisconsin.

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