PROPAGATION OF *CORDYLINE TERMINALIS* 'SHEPPERDII' BY HYDROCULTURE

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I had difficulty propagating *Cordyline terminals* 'Shepperdii' in quantity by the usual practice and searched for and developed the following method which yields almost 100% result. The method is also suitable for 'Tricolor Rosea', 'Red Edge', 'Baby-Ti', and other forms.

We propagate from plants at least 12 months old, preferably grown in very deep pots or well managed soil so as to allow maximum development of the rhizome. An application of Nemacur is given as protection against nematodes at planting.

The plants are removed from their garden beds or containers and washed free of all soil. They are placed on a wooden block and with a sharp knife 90% of the rhizome is cut off.

The leafy portion of the plants, with a small portion of the rhizomes and a few roots left on, are deeply planted in a suitable soil mix and watered in with a 1.5 ml/litre of Previcur and water solution. Then they are kept in humid conditions for 3 weeks and set out under shade cloth.

The remaining 90% portions of the rhizomes are cut into small sections, each having an eye and, if possible, a piece of root attached and dipped in a Captan solution.

As a propagating medium we use volcanic scoria or expanded clay. Other materials, such as perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, and river gravel have been used with some success but we much favor the scoria. The medium is put in a rectangular plastic container with 2 litres of water and sterilized in a commercial type microwave oven for 12 min at the high heat rate.

Propagating tubes (4 cm) are ¾ filled with scoria, a rhizome section with an eye is added and then covered with more scoria. These are placed in a plastic tray which is then filled to a depth of 2 cm with a solution of Previcur at the normal usage rate of 1.5 ml/litre. It is important that the liquid level be below the plant material.

We then place an opaque plastic tray of the same size on top to create a high humidity environment. When the water level goes below 1 cm it is brought up to the 2 cm level.

At 5 weeks we transfer the tubes to a fresh container and add a fresh Previcur-water solution. At 10 weeks the tubes are again transferred to a fresh tray and the Previcur solution is replaced by a ½ normal strength nutrient solution.

The plants that have emerged can be planted out or left to grow on in the nutrient solution until required. From the appearance of the first plant to the last a period of 3 to 7 months can elapse.

CONTROL OF FUSCHIA RUST

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Abstract. In a comparative test a new product, Baycor®[1], significantly improved control of fuschia rust when compared with currently recommended Plantvax at single or double strength.

INTRODUCTION

Rust is a disease caused by fungi of the order of Uredinales in the Basidiomycetes characterized by a special type of reproductive structure. Being obligate parasites, rusts develop on living hosts. The pustules in which the rust spores develop provide that rusty look — hence the common term. The spores are easily spread by air movement and under suitable conditions rapidly penetrate a new host developing into new pustules in a week or so. In the case of fuchsias the rust is caused by a specific rust named *Uredo fuchsiae* Art. & Holw.

As with most groups of plant diseases, new strains of rusts may develop ability to resist available fungicides and so new strains of rust may appear on plants selected for their previous disease resistance.

In May, 1980 a rust infection of consequence was observed at the nursery and identified as *Uredo Fuchsiae*. The weather conditions at the time were excessively wet and warm, resulting in a significant commercial problem. There was a marked difference in cultivar susceptibility. For example, 'Pink Quartet' had quite severe infection and the newly introduced 'Bonanza' was extremely susceptible. 'Pixie', 'Lord Byron', 'Voodoo', and 'Party Frock' were infected but rust did not appreciatively affect appearance or growth.

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[1] Baycor®, registered trademark of Bayer Co.