

## GENERAL SESSION III: QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

**Molly Anderson:** How much do you spend on advertising for your plant sale?

**Ernie Wasson:** I haven't been in charge of that part of the budget, but I think it's less than \$1,000. We get a lot of free advertising with feature stories and things like that.

**Molly Anderson:** Do you maintain a mailing list?

**Ernie Wasson:** Yes. Every check that's over about \$50 we photocopy the check before we send it to the bank and make a mailing list from that.

**Lane McLaughlin:** What time of year do you harvest the (*Trochodendron*) seeds?

**Guy Meacham:** I harvest the seed in October just as it turns brown inside the green seed capsule.

**Michael Norris:** Could you tell me what strength growth hormone you use and what time of year is best?

**Sheila Bhattacharya:** For mature trees I have been using 3000–8000 ppm NAA. The best time to do the air layers is when the plant is actively growing.

**Nevil Smith:** What about girdling and the use of hormones? Did you measure the temperature inside the wrapped air layers?

**Sheila Bhattacharya:** We have tried girdling all the way through with some species and with others we've left the bark intact. Most of the time we applied hormones to the apical side of the girdle. Measuring the temperature is a good point, but we didn't do it. However, I'm sure it's much warmer inside the wrapped air layer than the surrounding air. It's also much more humid.

**Corey Barnes:** Since the air layer can take 4–6 weeks, do you ever have to return to inject water into the plastic?

**Sheila Bhattacharya:** I used to inject water into the air layers with a hypodermic needle, which is a lot of work, but we've found that even though the peat moss dries out, roots are still able to form.

**James Conner:** What time of year do you receive the liners and how long is the production process?

**Ryan Hall:** We receive all year long with varying success and we haven't identified which time is best. We do know they respond poorly to heat stress so cooler times are more beneficial. As for rooting time, they come as bare-rooted plants and the crucial part is new root initiation. If you don't have new roots in a couple of weeks you will probably not be successful. Since their roots are very coarse the time in the liner is actually to hold the plug intact. There are not many fibrous roots to hold the soil together. Root initiation is 3–4 weeks and it takes 15–18 weeks to finish the crop.