

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF GROUP REPORTS

CHAIRMAN — J. CLAYTON

J. EDMUNDS: A comment on knives and sterilisation. I don't know if Brian Howard or Ian Campbell are still here but we were talking to them afterwards about this.

I. CAMPBELL: I did say, in fact, that the majority of the viruses in woody plants would not transfer by knife.

D. CLARK: We still T-bud *Acer* 'Royal Red' and 'Golds-worth Crimson'. It may be worth just going back to why we T-bud. For a number of years we tried T and chip buds in parallel and we found we got better takes with T-budding.

J. CLAYTON: When do you do your budding?

D. CLARK: We are budding a lot later this year, as the wood is so soft; in fact, it will probably be next week (August 1). Normally we would aim to have completed the job by now. I would persevere with field propagation. I think the cost of production of 'Crimson King' from pot-grown stocks would be very high. It is interesting that we have had little comment at this conference on the cost of labour. We have talked about saving energy but I'm sure our major costs in the nursery is labour and we ought to spend more time on the cost of labour. When we went over to chip budding it took a long time for our staff to learn the technique. If your staff has been chip budding throughout and they move back to T-budding it may take a little time to gain the skills again.

I. CAMPBELL: My experience with *Acers* is that if successful with chip budding one year this is seldom repeated the following year. Perhaps there are better clones to propagate. I was not aware that there was a problem with propagating cherries. Can anyone not propagate them easily?

J. CLAYTON: We got the *Acer* budwood from Bruce and it increased our take from 15 to 20% to 55%, so the Hadlow clone is an improvement.

R. THURLOW: We were T-budding cherries up to a few years ago with reasonable results; in the last 2 or 3 years we have not had reasonable figures.

D. CLARK: We went through a bad patch with cherries and I'm looking forward to this year with EMLA top and bottom. We used seedling cherries and F12/1 and a hybrid between the two; we now use virus-free rather than virus-tested material. Thankfully we are now moving on to home-produced 'Colt'. A lot of us this year will be budding 'Colt' and with virus-free budwood it will be interesting to see if this problem goes away.

R. THURLOW: Do you use chip or T budding?

D. CLARK: In the case of cherries, we chip.

S. HAINES: There are still cultivars in nurseries that are not virus-free, like 'Tai Haku', of which we do a large number. We had virus-free 'Kwanzan' and 'Avium Plena' on virus-free 'F12/1' which were a good crop, while 'Shidare Zakura', 'Tai Haku', 'Shirofugen' were nothing like as good.

A. CARTER: Cherry problems have cropped up from time to time. It was interesting to note that Nat said that Hadlow buds are better. We bud *Acers* at a certain time and we do not pay enough attention to the state of the stock or the budwood to make sure its right. I was pleased to hear David say that this year his budding may be done next week. If your nursery has been going 30 years, you have, in fact, been making a clonal selection because if it is purely a clonal problem then over the years you have been taking wood from the good ones.

H. SHEPHERD: We have been budding Bruce's Hadlow budwood for 10 years now, and normally with chip budding we get about 80% take. I would attribute most of the variance that we get to possibly *Verticillium* because this is a great problem, particularly with *Acer platanoides*. We are doing a study of sources of 'Crimson King'. Bruce's Hadlow clone has consistently given high takes. Some others have given 20%. Even though the clones look alike, there are differences in the budding take. One of the main problems in *Acer* is establishment of the stock. We irrigated our stock last year continuously; they grew actively and we found this gave us the highest bud take. We had stocks which were not irrigated; we root pruned them to slow the flow of sap but we found this was detrimental and lost about half because they were growing under stress.

1980 ROSE BOWL AWARD

The President of the G.B.&I. Region, P.A. Hutchinson, presented the Region's 1980 Rose Bowl Award to P.D.A. McMillan Browse. In outlining the recipient's outstanding contributions the President referred to his services as Hon. Treasurer (1969-72), Hon. Editor (1973-76), his terms as Vice President and Conference Organiser (1977), as President (1978) and as Past President and Committee Member (1979). As well as holder of the above offices he made contributions as Administrative Organiser for the 1969 Hadlow Conference, as lecturer in 1969, 1970, 1974, 1977, 1978 and as Discussion Group Leader in 1972 and 1979.

During the whole period since the formation of the G.B.&I. Region in 1968, P. McMillan Browse has been a regular attender