

Mass Propagation and Distribution of Rhododendron

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From 1972, Akatsuka Shokubutsuen has imported 400,000 pots of rhododendron and distributed them in Japan. During this time, tissue-culture propagation has been adopted for mass production and we now have planned production of nursery plants resulting in saleable pots of rhododendron. These tissue-cultured plants were registered as "Rhody". "Rhody" production was licensed with many agricultural corporations from the north (Fukushima Pref.) to the south (Miyazaki Pref.) of Japan. And recently, more hardy and heat-tolerant clones were registered under the name of "Super Rhody".

Use of PeSP Seedlings in the Production of Fruiting Vegetables

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A PeSP seedling is a kind of plug plant grown in a small cell which is a square of 14 mm and 23 mm in height. The production of fruiting vegetables in a glasshouse using PeSP seedlings has recently spread because the package of seedlings can be easily transported a long way. This study investigated the growth characteristics of PeSP seedlings. The results were summarized as follows: stem length, number of leaves, and the dry-matter weight of each organ of the PeSP seedlings of sweet pepper were larger than those of traditionally produced seedlings one month after transplanting. An especially marked difference in the dry matter weight of the roots was noted between the two kinds of seedlings. Over the same period, the dry-matter weight of PeSP seedlings of tomato was also greater than that of traditionally produced seedlings. By increasing the basal dressing of nitrogen, the yield of tomato, using PeSP seedlings, was increased compared with traditionally produced seedlings, however, the ratio of good tomato fruits decreased. It was generally observed at the time of transplanting that seedlings produced by the standard method had a long tap root while PeSP seedlings had developed some adventitious roots. The rapid growth and higher yield of tomato are considered to be due to the active up-take of nutrients by the well developed root system of PeSP seedlings. In order to obtain good quality tomato fruits using PeSP seedlings, it is necessary to supply a considerable amount of top dressing instead of part of the basal dressing.