



Western Kentucky Nursery Crop Update

Greetings Growers

To those of you I've met, I thank you for your warm welcome. To those I've yet to meet, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Carey Grable and I am your new Extension Associate for Nursery Crops. I'm sure most of you are familiar with my position and what I do. For those of you who are not, however, let me tell you about our program. This position is funded by grants from the Kentucky Horticulture Council (KHC) and The Agricultural Development Board (ADB) and is here to serve the Nursery Industry of Western Kentucky in several ways.

First, we conduct research on ways to improve nursery crop production. We look for ways to cut costs,

improve productivity, prevent damage by disease and insects, and test new industry products. To better develop our program, I encourage growers to contact us with any ideas they may have of methods or products they want to see tested. This way, we can benefit the growers of this area the most. Once demonstration plots have been established, we will have workshops to show our results in a hands-on way.

Another very important aspect of this program is our diagnosis service. Part of my job is to help growers diagnose and fix any problems that may creep up during their season. These problems could include issues with growing methods, plant disease, and in-

sect damage. Our research facility in Princeton does house a plant pathology lab and a soil testing lab.

I encourage growers to contact me if they have any issues that they would like help with. I am more than willing to come out to your farm and help in any way that I am able.

—Carey Grable

Carey.Grable@uky.edu
(270)-365-7541 Ext. 279



BMP Workshop with Dr. Larry Kuhns

On March 25th, the UK Research Center at Princeton will be hosting a Best Management Practices workshop on weed control in nurseries, garden centers, and landscapes. This day long workshop will feature Dr. Larry Kuhns,

Professor Emeritus of Ornamental Horticulture at Penn State University.

While this workshop will be primarily focused on nursery growers, garden centers, and landscapers, it will be good for CEUs for Pesticide applicators. A

registration fee will be required and lunch will be provided.

- March 25th, 2010
- CEUs available
- Registration Fee TBD

Inside this issue:

Greetings Growers: An Introduction	1
March 25th BMP Workshop with Dr. Larry Kuhns	1
Establishment Trials	2
Product Trial: RootTrapper-in-Pot Inserts	2





**UK RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
CENTER AT PRINCETON**

College of Agriculture - P.O. Box 469 -
Princeton, KY 42445

Phone: 270-365-7541

Fax: 270-365-2667

We Grow Ideas

[www.uky.edu]

Establishment Trials

There seems to be a lot of confusing information floating around regarding the different methods of tree production. We all have our favorite methods of tree production that have served us well in the past. Sometimes the debate over which production method is best can become heated, but there seems to be very little fact on how these trees actually compare to each other. For this reason, we will be conducting an establishment trial this year on the UKREC farm in Princeton. In this trial we will take trees of the same species, grown in different ways, and plant them in marginal soils to represent the average home landscape. The production methods compared will be Ball-in-Burlap, Growbag, Container, and Bare Root trees. These trees will be treated equal and rated on their survival, performance, and cost effectiveness. At the end of this trial, a field day will be hosted in Princeton so that growers can view the results up close and make judgments of their own.

Product Trial: RootTrapper[®]-in-Pot Insert by RootMaker[®]

This year we will be testing the RootTrapper[®]-in-Pot Inserts made by RootMaker[®]. This product is constructed much like the standard RootTrapper[®] container, but it is designed to fit in the socket pot of a standard Pot-in-Pot production system. We are all familiar with the problems that the Pot-in-Pot system has with root escape and root circling. The idea behind this product is to help prevent both of these issues.

For those unfamiliar with the RootTrapper[®] bags, the interior wall of the container is made of a fine mesh that allows roots to grow into the wall, but quickly girdles the root-tips, encouraging lateral growth. By placing these containers in a Pot-in-Pot system, the grower can

hope to gain the benefits found in both systems. While growers without pre-established Pot-in-Pot systems might find this system impractical, growers with Pot-in-Pot may find this product to be what they need to help control root escape and circling.

We will be conducting this trial using the UKREC Pot-in-Pot setup in Princeton. We will be comparing these inserts

to standard pots financially, in terms of root escape, root structure, and ease of use. We are also planning on conducting trials of this product on-farm at Western Kentucky nurseries. Thus we are looking for any volunteers that will allow us to place this product in their Pot-in-Pot setup. Anyone interested in participating should contact me by:

email (Carey.Grable@uky.edu)

or

phone (270-365-7541 ext. 279).



Image from the RootMaker[®] website accessed Feb. 9th, 2010.