



Wisconsin Ornamentals.com

January 26, 2009

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Plug Production Pointers

There are many steps in the process of propagation where you can lose cuttings.

Success starts with quality cuttings received in good shape; stuck under sanitary conditions, with correct mist, temperature, light and feed; and with no disease or insect problems.

Failure to pay attention to any of these steps results in significant monetary losses, as well as delays in getting replacement cuttings. Can you afford these losses?

[Link here](#) to Roger Styer's article about how to limit your losses

Spring Weather

Long-range weather forecasts from The Old Farmers' Almanac and MySkEye.com (the weather service Walmart uses) project an early, warm spring with average or below average precipitation in most areas of the country.

You can't get MySkEye's report unless you spend big bucks, but the Almanac forecast for your region is free—check it out at www.almanac.com/weather.

America in Bloom - Community Service revitalization

Throughout 2009, there will be a strong national emphasis on community service programs – ordinary citizens coming together to do what they can to make a difference in their communities. It just so happens our industry has one of the best community revitalization programs, America In Bloom (AIB). For more, [Link Here](#)



Trouble Shooting Spring Crops

Even when crop quality is high, adverse post-production conditions in the garden center can eat away at profits.

Read [this article](#) from Fred Hulme in Greenhouse Grower.com that discusses some common problems that may arise with spring crops and suggest ways to avoid or mitigate these problems.

Challenges in 2009

The shroud of gloom and doom that was hanging over the past 365 days — at least — may not have lifted completely, but the growing community has realized now is not the time to complain about it.

For 2009, it's all seeing each wave of challenges as a new opportunity, making changes and being smarter to prevent an undertow that drowns your businesses and sucks out your optimism. Here are some thoughts from five industry experts on what's ahead, just over the horizon...

- Diversification Is Key
- Don't Forget People and Profit
- Pay Attention to Shifting Views
- Turn Challenges Into Opportunities
- Watch Emerging Trends

For a summary of each of these provided by industry personnel [link here](#) to the on-line article.

Source: Greenhouse Product News

Are Combo Containers a Headache?

Ball Horticultural Co. has posted more than 45 container gardening combinations and monoculture containers on its website for growers looking to create combo recipes.

In addition to the recipes, growers will find easy-to-understand diagrams with container sizes and a listing of plants to be used.

Ball has tested the containers to make sure they grow well throughout the season and promote customer success for repeat business. The site can be searched based on exposure for where the container will thrive, and retailers can download a PDF version of the container page for future use.

For more information, visit <http://www.simply-beautifulgardens.com/containers.aspx>

Cold Grow Poinsettia Production

To help growers improve their poinsettia production process and sales numbers, Ecker Ranch is hosting a webinar titled "Cold Grow Poinsettia Review & the Importance of Properly Scheduling Your Poinsettia Crop" from 10 to 11 a.m. PST on Thursday, Jan. 29.

Roger Kehoe and Rebecca Siemonsma will be leading the one-hour session where they will review the cold grow technique. They will also cover the basics and the importance of properly scheduling a poinsettia crop.

Interested growers are encouraged to register today as space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat [here](#).

Direct any questions to Rebecca Siemonsma, Ecker Ranch's technical services manager, at rsiemonsma@eckeranch.com or (760) 944-4060.

Source: Greenhouse Product News

THINK SPRING!



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