Western Coordinating Committee Petition

NUMBER: WCC-058

<u>TITLE</u>: Production, Transition Handling, and Reestablishment of Perennial Nursery

Stock

DURATION: October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2002

<u>DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:</u> Plant production, transition handling, and reestablishment of nursery stock continues to be challenging in light of new plant introductions and growing techniques. It is essential to understand past and current problems in order to design an integrated research approach to address issues facing perennial plant producers.

Commercial production is concentrated in regions with climate favoring rapid and cost effective plant growth. Visiting these major production regions affords the opportunity for WCC-058 participants to interact with growers and handlers in identifying production handling and reestablishment issues. Research addressing proper acclimation and handling of perennial plants before shipment to climatically diverse regions is critical to their quality, survival, and ability to re-establish.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To provide a forum where integrated research and education approaches are designed regarding problems facing plant nurseries involved in plant production, transition handling and reestablishment of perennial nursery stock.
- 2) To share new research information about transition handling and reestablishment of perennial nursery stock and identify high priority areas and foster interdisciplinary research and education projects among WCC-058 scientists.
- Prepare reviews or summaries of topics relevant to the plant production, transition handling, and reestablishment of nursery stock with the general research community and other interested persons by publishing information in journals and on the website of the WCC-058.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

Enhance research efforts: Comprehension of major concerns facing nursery growers who produce perennial nursery stock by WCC-058 scientists allow for emphasis on high-priority research needs. Cooperative projects continue to evolve through interaction of participants across major production areas in the Western States as well as outside the Western Region.

- Multidisciplinary involvement: Multidisciplinary and interregional participants in the WCC-058 have included scientists from 18 states. This diverse background and experience in all aspects of production, transition handling and reestablishment of perennial nursery stock results in dynamic discussion and enlightened research planning and interdisciplinary projects. The participants have expertise in areas such as plant growth and development, post-harvest physiology, and plant stress physiology. The meetings have also included disciplines of biosystems engineering, plant pathology, entomology, and economics. Efforts are made to include scientists and graduate students in the committee meetings to extend the scope of information exchange and potential for cooperative research. Thus, the coordinating committee has provided an effective vehicle for communication and sharing between scientists, educators, and industry professionals which otherwise would not exist.
- 3) Improved nursery stock production: Recognition of emerging problems involving the perennial nursery stock industry and the exchange of research information amongst scientists will result in practices reducing post-production losses, improving efficiency and producing high quality plant material while sustaining environmental quality. Consumers are the ultimate benefactors of the interdisciplinary and interregional approach through greater selection of new material and improved performance, survival, and quality of landscape plants.
- 4) <u>Standardization</u>: Research-based development of standards for production-transition-establishment of perennial nursery stock has resulted from interregional cooperative research. These standards continue to provide a data base for improved technology transfer and problem solving. Interregional cooperation ensures that information is readily transformed into practice as it develops.
- Improved education: Opportunities for students and university personnel interested in nursery production to interact with WCC-058 members at the annual meetings expand educational opportunities. Tours of nursery facilities, plant collections, or landscapes enhance all participant's understanding of challenges in producing or using perennial nursery stock in different climate zones. Visuals taken at these tours are valuable teaching aids for all participants in the classroom and for training of professional growers. Comparison of teaching methods amongst participants is another valuable educational component of this group.

EDUCATIONAL PLAN:

WCC-058 is a vehicle for intraregional and interregional, multidisciplinary research approaches to identify and integrate environmentally sound production, transition, and establishment strategies for perennial landscape plans. WCC-058 is the only coordinating committee focusing on these critical issues. There are individual and

joint research efforts by WCC-058 participants dealing with the problems of the nursery and landscape industry. New applied information is disseminated in classrooms and through professional and popular/trade magazine publications. All members of the WCC-058 are involved in presentations at workshops and field days through their respective university outreach programs.

PARTICIPANTS:

	Research	Extension	Teaching
Cabrera, Raul I. Rutgers University Plant Science	25	75	0
Cameron, Arthur Michigan State University Horticulture	70	0	30
Chen, Tony H. Oregon State University Horticulture	90	0	10
Cole, Janet Oklahoma State University Horticulture	80	0	20
Dana, Michael Purdue University Horticulture	0	40	60
Graves, Bill Iowa State University Horticulture	70	0	0
Hensley, David University of Hawaii Horticulture	0	30	10
Hummel, Rita L. WSU-Puyallup Research & Extension Center	75	0	25
Johnson, Charles R. Washington State University WSU Research & Extension Unit	50	50	0
Kjelgren, Roger Utah State University Plant Science	75	0	0
Klett, James E. Colorado State University Horticulture	0	20	60
Kling, Gary J. University of Illinois	40	0	60

Hortic	ulture			
Kuhne	Larry		35	

Kuhns, Larry Pennsylvania State University Horticulture	35	0	0
Maynard, Brian University of Rhode Island Plant Sciences	28	24	0
Pemberton, Brent Texas A & M Agricultural Research & Extension Center	100	0	0
Pittenger, Dennis R. University of California Horticulture	20	80	0
Robbins, Jim University of Arkansas Coop. Ext. Service - Horticulture	25	75	0
Schuch, Ursula K. Iowa State University Horticulture	20	0	80
St. Hillaire, Rolston New Mexico State University Horticulture	54	0	55
Starbuck, Chris University of Missouri Horticulture	25	75	0
Struve, Daniel K. The Ohio State University Horticulture	60	0	40
Tripepi, Robert University of Idaho Plant Science	45	0	55

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE:

WCC-058 officers are the secretary, vice-chair, and chair. A new secretary is elected every year and elevated to the position of chair in their third year. The secretary is responsible for recording minutes of the annual meeting and coordinating names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. The vice-chair assists the chair in arranging the business meeting and serves in the absence of the chair. The chair of the WCC-058 conducts the business meeting, generates informational materials, participates in renewal of the petition and assists in coordinating meeting sites with a local arrangement committee.

SIGNATURES:

MJ Bule	1/14/9
Administrative Advisor**	/Date /

7/14/1999 Date

ATTACHMENTS:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Accomplishments of the WCC-058 1996-1998

A primary benefit of the WCC-058 Coordinating Committee is the facilitation of cooperative research, extension and teaching exchange of new information. These efforts involve the utilization of greenhouse, field and laboratory facilities in the Western States as well as universities situated in the Midwest and East. Sharing knowledge of new techniques, interaction with the perennial plant industries in different locations adds to the credibility and strength of the WCC-058. The following are examples of research projects that are both in process and completed.

1. Comparing Growth of Trees field-planted After Being Held in a Missouri Gravel Bed (MGB) with Growth of Container Grown and Dormant-planted Bare Root Trees.

Jeff Illes, Bill Graves and Chris Starbuck initiated a project in 1995 to compare growth of trees field-planted after being held in a Missouri Gravel Bed (MGB) with growth of container grown and dormant-planted bare root trees. Redbud, green ash and red maple trees from cold storage at Sherman Nursery, Charles City IA were either planted directly in April, containerized or placed in a gravel bed. Container grown and MGB plants were then field planted in the same research nursery at Ames on July 15. Growth was monitored through the 1996 season. This longer plant study provided data valuable for the refinement of the Missouri Gravel Bed system for extending the planting season for bare root nursery stock.

2. Diurnal cycles of Stomatal Resistance and Canopy Temperature of Redbud and Hackberry over Asphalt and Turf

Roger Kjelgren and Janet Cole have initiated a project to evaluate diurnal cycles of stomatal resistance and canopy temperature of Redbud and Hackberry over asphalt and turf. The main objective is to evaluate differences in plant performance (canopy temperature, stomatal resistance, and plant water use) over asphalt and turf surfaces. Temperatures above the two surfaces are very different even though the rest of the environment may be similar. Plant performance in situations where trees may be placed in planters (or in the ground) in parking areas (asphalt) of in more natural environments such as in parks, yards, etc. (turf) is evaluated. The study is being conducted in Logan, Utah and in Stillwater, Oklahoma because Logan, in general, has a very low

relative humidity and Stillwater generally has a very high relative humidity during the growing season. Two sites with varying environments are used in this study to compare if the plants perform similarly.

3. Improving Postharvest Handling of Bare Root Dormant Roses

Dr. Brent Pemberton spent several days on a study tour at Michigan State University to collaborate with Dr. Art Cameron on research protocols aimed at improving the postharvest handling of bare root dormant rose plants.

4. Best Management Practices for the Harvest, Postharvest Storage, Transition Handling, and Landscape Reestablishment of Perennial Nursery Stock

A project has been initiated by the group to produce a document addressing Best management Practices for the harvest, Postharvest Storage, Transition Handling, and Landscape Reestablishment of Perennial Nursery Stock. The first step will be the writing of annotated bibliographies on subjects pertinent to the overall goals of the project.

APPENDIX

PUBLICATIONS OF WCC-58 MEMBERS 1996 - 1998

Journal Articles

- Aiello, A.S. and W.R. Graves. 1997. Container medium and nitrogen form affect production of Amur maackia. HortScience 32:1200-1203.
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- Aiello, A.S. and W.R. Graves. 1996. Two leguminous tree species differ in growth and ion uptake in Hoagland solution: Phosphorus toxicity in Amur maackia. Journal of Plant Nutrition 19:1061-1073.
- Bethke, J., Redak, R.A. and U.K. Schuch. 1998. Melon aphid performance on chrysanthemum as mediated by cultivar, fertilizer, and irrigation levels. Entomol. Exp. et. Appl. (in press)
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- Cabrera, R.I. 1999. Propiedades, uso y manejo de sustratos de cultivo para la producción de plantas en maceta Horticultura. (*Properties, use and management of growing media for container plant production*). Revista Chapingo Serie 5(1): xx-xx (In press).
- Cabrera, R.I. 1998. Monitoring chemical properties of container growing media with small soil solution samplers. Scientia Hortic. 75: 113-119.
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- Cole, J.C., R. Kjelgren and D.L. Hensley. 1998. Field grow fabric containers as an alternative nursery crop production system. *HortTechnology* 8:159-163.
- Cole, J.T., J.H. Baird, N.T. Basta, R.L. Huhnke, D.E. Storm, G.V. Johnson, M.E. Payton, M.D. Smolen, D.L. Martin and J.C. Cole. 1997. Influence of buffers on pesticide and nutrient runoff from bermudagrass turf. *J. Environ. Qual.* 26:1589-1598.
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- Cole, J.C. and L. Newell. 1996. Recycled paper influences container substrate physical properties, leachate mineral content, and growth of rose-of-sharon and forsythia. *HortTechnology* 6:79-83.
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Addendum

WCC-058 Production, Transition Handling, and Re-establishment of Perennial Nursery Stock

1999

Communication and Cooperation Among Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee members of WCC-058 interact and cooperate frequently between annual meetings. Members of the committee routinely formally and informally review each other's manuscripts and Experiment Station projects. Frequent communication by e-mail enables members to share problems and solutions rapidly. Most members of the Coordinating Committee also participate in the same regional and national meetings where information is shared. Other interaction includes joint projects and sabbatical leaves. Thus frequent communication is a regular part of the interaction of members of the Coordinating Committee.