

In summation, the concensus of the members present was that the best rooting medium should combine a maximum of aeration with sufficient retention of moisture to maintain cutting turgor.

MODERATOR JOHNSON: The summary of the fifth round table discussion will be given by David B. Paterson.

**SELECTION, TESTING AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW PLANTS
AND TEST GARDENS AND ARBORETA AS THEY RELATE
TO PLANT PROPAGATION**

DAVID B. PATERSON, *Moderator*
OLIVER D. DILLER, *Recorder*

The moderator started off by briefly describing the joint Longwood Gardens—USDA Plant Exploration Program which has sponsored 8 expeditions since 1956 and is planning one to Korea in 1966.

The word "new" as applied to plants was re-defined to include not only new-born (for example brand new hybrids or selections) but plants that are new to a particular area, for example, Azaleas are now being grown in St. Louis where it was said it couldn't be done. They are new plants.

The New Crops Program at the University of Minnesota Arboretum has been testing potential ornamentals for about ten years and about 150 introductions have been made. Many of these are examples of little known plants that have been buried in collections for years and are now available to the nursery trade. In Minnesota there has been a fine relationship between University and nurserymen. The nurserymen help support to research section. A seven man committee meets twice a year with the University Arboretum staff and helps to decide whether a new plant is worthy of introduction. An introduction date is set and budwood given to nurserymen. A fee is paid to the Research Committee. The plants are not patented.

It was pointed out that some time ago the AABGA published a list of names of Arboreta willing to participate in a plant testing program. American Nursery Association showed interest in the idea but nurserymen have not participated. Effort is being made now to revive this program.

Test gardens in various parts of Europe were described. At least one or two are run by an association of nurserymen who establish and maintain the collections. This not only tests new varieties and shows what is available but provides an opportunity to check nomenclature. Old private estates are good sources of unusual material but must be taken advantage of right away as many are being disbanded.

It was pointed out that one source of "new" plants was American natives — many of which have to be imported from England.

It was felt by some that distribution of plants could be done in a more organized way.

Several suggestions as to a central clearing agency or an organization to disseminate information as to what was available and where.

This could be done by an organization of Arboreta, it could be done by nursery growers, it could be done by plant societies such as being done by the Iris Society. It was generally agreed that a terrific amount of work was involved, and that no one would make any money doing it — probably quite the contrary.

The greatest problem that exists between the nurseryman and the Arboreta is one of poor communications. While a clearing house system could probably facilitate the spread of information as to what plants are available, the individual nurseryman will probably always have to take the initiative if he wants to find new and unusual plants.

It was expressed that plant taxonomy should be an important interest of the plant propagator and this society could do much to further interest and better understanding of this important subject.

[*Editor's Note:* Mr. Paterson expressed thanks to Joe McDaniel who helped record the discussion.]