

8. Speyer, E.R. 1927. An important parasite of the greenhouse whitefly (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum* Westwood). *Bull. Entomol. Res.* 17:301-308.
9. Wyatt, I.J. 1971. The distribution of *Myzus persicae* (Sulz) on year-round chrysanthemums. II. Effect of parasitism by *Aphidius matricariae* Hd. *Ann. Appl. Biol.*

PROPAGATION OF DAPHNE ODORA

WILLIAM C. POYNTON

*Williams Nurseries
Clayton, Victoria*

The most important aspect of *Daphne* propagation is the use of clean healthy stock plants. Spraying regularly with systemic fungicides and insecticides is essential. Also a regular fertilizing program is necessary. The fertilizer must contain trace elements.

Cuttings are taken from the 1st week in September (spring) to the 1st week in April (mid-autumn), using a very sharp knife or razor blade. I recommend a throw-away Stanley knife.

Soft cuttings taken are 1 to 3 cm in length not including leaves. As each cutting is taken it is submerged in a bucket of warm Benlate solution of recommended strength for up to 10 minutes. Cuttings are transferred to 10" pot to drain where they may be left up to 24 hours.

The next step is to remove the bottom leaves carefully by pulling them off (not cutting off).

Cuttings are then placed in copper naphthenate-treated Victorian seedling boxes (flats) containing a mixture of 25% peat and 75% sand with 64 well-spaced cuttings to a box. They are watered in with 1/2 strength Benlate.

The boxes are placed under mist in an Igloo or poly house and are covered with a terylene net which has been previously dipped in copper naphthenate. The net is removed approximately 2 weeks later, depending on weather conditions. The net is removed on a cool day and replaced if the weather becomes too hot.

Mist is applied 10 seconds every 20 minutes and the Igloo temperature may reach 35°C.

Cuttings can be taken from young plants only 12 months old. This improves the plants and also gives a good source of extra cuttings. Of 12,000 cuttings taken, 10,500 were potted and 700 returned and potted later.

I believe that this method of propagation from very young micro seedlings helps to prevent spread of viruses, of which there are many.

NOTE: No hormone or bottom heat is used. Copper naphthenate (3%) mixed with 50% kerosene is used for treating the boxes and net. The boxes measure 71cm × 15cm × 5cm.

ROSE ROOTSTOCK, 'DR. HUEY', IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DEANE M. ROSS

A. Ross & Son
321 Sturt Rd., Bedford Park
South Australia 5042

South Australia is one of the main rose producing states of the Commonwealth, especially in proportion to its population. According to the latest statistical collection in 1974-75, almost 600,000 rose plants were grown; over half of these were sent interstate. The traditional rootstocks have been *Rosa indica major* (commonly but incorrectly called 'Boursalt') for dwarf budding and *R. canina* for stem or standard production. Both of these rootstocks suffer from certain disadvantages. *R. indica major* can give very erratic bud-take during autumn budding and will sucker under some conditions. *R. canina* also suckers badly and gives unreliable strike of cuttings.

For these reasons, several South Australian growers are turning to the rootstock 'Dr. Huey' for both dwarf and stem production.

'Dr. Huey' was originally bred as a garden rose in 1914 by G.C. Thomas in California, U.S.A. and it was not until 1940 that its potential as a rootstock was recognized but by the early 1950s it was being grown as the major stock in California. It tolerates alkaline soil and dry harsh summers very well — the same conditions experienced in Southern France, Spain, Italy, and, of course, South Australia, where it was first tested in small quantities about 1955. Nothing more was done with it until the early 1970's when a few nurserymen, including our company, decided to tests its potential as an alternative for growing two-year-old roses, in order to overcome the often disastrous bud take of *R. indica major* for late summer budding.

Since that time it has proved to be very suitable for South Australian conditions, both as a nursery plant and as the eventual garden plant. Its features may be summarized as follows: