

c) Nursery stock offers a number of problems, the most common being the "pampered" syndrome. Nursery stock is nurtured in selected soil, under optimum light, watering and fertilizing conditions. This permits maximum growth of the plant under the idealized conditions. The removal of such a pampered individual into the harsh reality of survival often leads to trauma, resulting in death. Because of this pampered syndrome, nursery stock must only be considered in terms of ongoing maintenance unless plantings can be guaranteed in seasons or conditions which permit the overcoming of the transplant trauma.

d) Another problem not pertinent to the realities of plant propagation but highly significant in the regeneration of disturbed areas is governmental authority awareness. Some government authorities still maintain Europeanization as an ideal and not only have no information about alternate methods of restoration but do not wish to know about them. A designated governmental authority may dictate to a developer that he will plant poplars, willows, petunias and roses instead of much more functional and cost-effective native plants. In this area it is essential that the International Plant Propagators' Society and allied organizations accept their proper role in educating the decision-making authorities as to the value of native plants. These contractually fulfill with cost effective, low maintenance species plants guaranteed to meet the needs of the most meticulous government servants.

In conclusion, I believe that the Plant Propagators and allied people in Australia have not faced up to the fact that industry requires by mandate an enormous ongoing amount of restoration and rehabilitation. Members of this Society are content to sit back and wait for orders to come in from the development industries across Australia. You have the capacity, the knowledge, and the stock to advise the developers of what they should be doing and looking at — all that you lack is the awareness, and I sincerely trust that this paper will make you more aware.

## **CONTAINERIZED ROSE GROWING**

I. W. DAWSON

*Dawson Harrison Pty. Ltd.*

*Forrestfield, Western Australia 6058*

Roses are propagated throughout the world using the same basic techniques. What we are doing that is different from the

bulk of the trade is carrying out the entire process in containers.

Roses do very well in Western Australia where dry summers ensure that we have no fungal problems for at least half of the year. Our deep sandy soils have little water holding capacity so permanent irrigation systems are needed to provide regular and frequent waterings. Selection of rootstock to suit this soil type is most important. We use *Rosa fortuniana* rootstock for its vigour in our hot dry summers and its roots thrive in the high soil temperatures that we have.

We have changed from field growing of roses to fully containerized production largely to reduce the pressure of handling all the stock in the winter months. With containerization we have year-round sales. We do most of our promotion for autumn sales and are generally running low on stocks by the beginning of summer. Containerization also results in a high degree of self service by the customers and having the roses in flower is a major help in ensuring customer satisfaction.

We have tried using both the traditional stock bed, and striking directly into 9-inch containers, with variable results. We are now striking cuttings in tube trays and foam cell trays with better results. This also gives much better results when planting out than does the stock bed method. We plant out into the smaller 6-inch pots for budding and then go directly to the buckets. Using the smaller pots also requires much less space.

Open ground produced *R. fortuniana* have very few buds coming away in the first year so must be sold as two-year-old bushes. Containerized production under our conditions gives a most presentable, multistem rose from three to four feet high and in flower in 15 months.

## **HARD-TO-PROPAGATE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS**

G. LULLFITZ

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The flora of Western Australia contains a very large number of species and includes some of the showiest plants in the world. The majority of West Australian wildflowers are no different from any other plants in terms of propagation. It may be argued that all plants can be propagated but considerable difficulty is experienced when attempting to propagate many of