

diminished the problem by eliminating the adults.

Table 1 shows an analysis of eucalypt bark and of worm casts.

In conclusion, eucalypt bark can be expected to be of considerable benefit to the nursery industry in the future, particularly with the price of peat moss escalating at a very rapid rate.

USE OF SIERRA BLEND PLUS 100-DAY OSMOCOTE ON NATIVE PLANTS

GORDON LAMB

Grove Nursery,
Wattle Grove, Western Australia

When Sierra Blend Nursery Mix (19-6-10 + iron) was initially marketed in Perth, Australia it was inferred that we need not use a primary source of nitrogen to counteract drawdown on a sand and sawdust mix. We decided to conduct our own trials to determine if this was the case, using 160 plants in 8 groups:

Group 1. 4 pounds U.F.38 lime, trace elements, 5 pounds 280-day Osmocote. (Control)

Group 2. 4 pounds U.F. 38 lime, 5 pounds Sierra Blend

Group 3. 4 pounds U.F. 38 lime, 4 pounds Sierra Blend, 1 pound 100-day Osmocote

Group 4. 4 pounds U.F. 38 lime, 3 pounds Sierra Blend, 2 pounds 100-day Osmocote

Group 5. 4 pounds U.F. 38 lime, 4 pounds Sierra Blend, 2 pounds 100-day Osmocote

Group 6. 4 pounds U.F. 38 lime, 2 pounds Sierra Blend, 2 pounds 100-day Osmocote

Group 7. 4 pounds U.F. 38 lime, 2½ pounds Sierra Blend, 2 pounds 100-day Osmocote

Group 8. 4 pounds U.F. 38 lime, 1 pound Sierra Blend, 2 pounds 100-day Osmocote

The plants selected for experimentation were *Grevilea biternata*, *G. robusta*, *G. rosmarinifolia*, *Eucalyptus lehmannii*, and *E. platypus*. Four of each type were used in each of the eight treatments. Plants were propagated in a soil-less mix combining 1 part German peat, 1 part bluemetal and 1 part perlite with 5 pounds of 100 day Osmocote to the cubic yard.

Our normal potting mix, 2 parts sawdust : 1 part white washed sand, was used for growing on, together with the components listed above.

The trial was conducted in late summer (February-March) when we had fairly high temperatures, 37° to 40°C, for sustained periods of up to one week. The plants were watered overhead for a period of 45 minutes once a day, with an additional late afternoon irrigation for 30 minutes on extremely hot days.

After a period of 6 weeks the plant in the 2 pounds 100 day Osmocote, 3 pound Sierra Blend group were visibly much larger and healthier than plants in any of the other groups. Plants growing in Group 2 appeared to be lacking nitrogen, and plants growing in Group 5 appeared to have their growth retarded by the additional amount of fertilizer. The growth of plants in the other groups appeared to be related to the increased amount of Osmocote and Sierra Blend.

Since these trials we have used the best formulation on several other genera and achieved favourable results with most. There were problems with bottlebrush species and some species of melaleuca.

In conclusion, under our conditions at Grove Nursery, using our water supply and Jarrah sawdust, we found that Sierra Blend did not contain sufficient primary nitrogen to counteract nitrogen drawdown. However, when we used 3 pounds per yard³ in conjunction with a mixture of 4 pounds U.F.38 lime, additional trace elements, and 2 pounds 100 day Osmocote, Sierra Blend proved to be a satisfactory addition to our soil mix.

SOME TASMANIAN PLANTS WORTHY OF CULTIVATION

ALAN M. GRAY

Hobart, Tasmania

There are many Tasmanian endemic plants which would make admirable specimens in any garden or park. Unfortunately, most are either unknown or unavailable to the commercial nursery trade, and hence to the general public. Many of these plants are easily propagated, establish readily, and require little special attention. Some, however, do present problems in propagation and, as such, are a challenge to the amateur and professional plant propagator alike.

I have selected some species which I believe have considerable merit and the potential to become desirable ornamentals. Not only is it desirable to introduce and produce these plants on account of their unquestionable aesthetic value but, surely, as our natural forests and bushlands are being decimated at an