

**DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS**  
**GROUP B**  
**BENCH GRAFTING**  
CHAIRMAN — R. THURLOW

Subjects discussed were *Acer platanoides*, Japanese cherries, and lilacs. The chairman summarised results obtained in these genera.

*Acer platanoides*. Stocks were potted into 4 in. whalehides the year before grafting took place and put into frames. The following autumn they were brought inside the greenhouse to dry out before grafting. Grafting took place in January and February, a side graft being used, and tied with ½ in. polythene tape. The grafts were then placed inside a cold tunnel house. The take was about 50% in both cultivars. They will be close lined out in mid-summer following grafting.

*Japanese cherries*. Stocks of *Prunus avium* were potted into 4 in. whalehides the year before grafting took place and put into cold frames. They were brought inside the greenhouse the following autumn to dry out before grafting. Grafting took place in January and February, a side graft being used and tied with ½ in polythene tape, then placed inside a cold tunnel house. Five cultivars were grafted — Erecta (Amanogawa), Shidare Sakura, Hisakura, Pink Perfection and Shirofugen.

The take was good only on two cultivars — Amanogawa and Shidare Zakura, the rest being very poor; 100 stocks of each cultivar were grafted. We had to watch for black fly. Some days in late spring the tunnels became very hot and had to be shaded. Ties were taken off when a firm union had been made. The plants will be close lined out into nursery beds in mid-summer following grafting.

*Lilacs*. Stocks of *Syringa tomentella* were potted into 4 in. plastic pots in January and put into cold tunnel houses.

They were chip-budded in late June and put into a glass-house, where they remained through the winter, on the house floor. In the following spring they were headed back to the bud and then fed with phostrogen until the bud had started to grow. After growth had reached 6 in. they were then stopped to allow them to bush out. The plants were potted on into 3 litre pots and placed outside in late July.

The take was over 90% of the 1,000 stocks budded.