

phytotoxicity as a probable cause of the delayed growth observed (Figure 1).

The development of a healthy and vigorous root system is a fundamental requirement for efficient plant growth. Chemical sanitation tools can promote the development of vigorous root systems when used as preventative disease control measures. Greater attention should be given to effects of chemical treatment on plant growth. The elimination of soil-borne disease problems must be accompanied by minimal effects on plant growth to be useful in efficient greenhouse growing programs. Inability of growers to predict requirements to control specific soil-borne pathogens will continue to emphasize the use of broad-spectrum control measures during the cropping cycle. The use of fungicide with control activity will require the use of fungicide combinations. Long-term effectiveness, cost of application, and production efficiency of chemical control programs are important considerations for future research.

LITERATURE CITED

- 1 Baker, E F , ed. 1957 The U.C System for Producing Health Container-Grown Plants *Calif. Agr. Exp Sta Man* 23 332 pp.

SOME ASPECTS OF INTERIOR LANDSCAPING

LEN SPENCER

*The Spencer Company
Houston, Texas 77042*

The Spencer Company entered the horticultural services field in 1959 in commercial landscape management. During the early 1970's we noted the environmental trend and began an indoor plant leasing service, which is now producing about 55% of our gross revenues. In 1977, the landscape division rounded out our services with landscape design-and-build capabilities.

For this presentation, I requested a brief statement from three department managers in our indoor division with regard to the needs you might address in your propagation, growing and shipping operations. These are their memos to me.

PURCHASING

"In reference to your memo, the problems I have are rather isolated due to our excellent sources in Florida. However, there are certain plants that are almost always difficult to obtain. At certain times of the year, around January, *Dracaena fragrans massangeana* and other *Dracaena fragrans* cultivars

grown as a cane are almost impossible to locate in quantity. I would urge all growers to gear up for that time of the year. Other materials that are difficult almost always are 17-inch *D. fragrans massangeana* grown in bush form, *D. deremensis warneckii*, and *D. deremensis* 'Janet Craig.' Fourteen-inch *D. warneckii* with good height (5 ft) are also hard to get."

SHIPPING AND GREENHOUSING

"*Condition of plants received.* Some plants are over-fertilized with Osmocote, which is a slow-release fertilizer. Generally, most plants have been thoroughly watered prior to shipping and are pest-free. We do run into occasional problems of leaf spot caused by bacteria or fungus on leaves of *D. f. massangeana* canes. Growers need to be aware of the need for application of fungicides prior to shipping since the cool, dark, humid conditions in the truck are ideal for the spread of bacteria and fungus.

Other. We run into a supply problem with 14- and 17-inch *D.f. massangeana* canes. The growers never grow enough to cover demand. I think our supply situation could be greatly improved if Texas growers were encouraged to produce larger quantities of interior-scaping foliage plants. It seems they are geared only towards the chain-store market. Overall, the industry has vastly improved in supply and quality over the last ten years."

PLANT CARE

1. We need more kinds of 6- and 8-inch plants that will do well in low light (50 to 75 f.c.).
2. We have had problems with virus in sheffleras and 'Janet Craig' dracaenas.
3. Frequently, plants ('Janet Craig' and 'Warneckii' dracaenas) need staking as soon as they come in.
4. Kentia palms need a heavier potting medium to keep them from leaning in the container."

Our sales personnel, who regularly deal with our interior design and architect clientele, constantly remind me that they need a greater variety of adapted plants in order to add a more creative note in the use of plants indoors. Please visit or call us if direct input from users can be helpful in your research and production programs.