

“Perennials” Question-Answer Period

Anonymous: Can you recommend some peony cultivars that will grow in warmer areas?

Rick Rogers: Get early-blooming singles and semi-doubles in the Japanese types. Tree peonies work well in California. Stay away from the late-blooming doubles. They will not be luxuriant in the Bay Area, but they will grow.

Kristin Yanker-Hansen: Does shallow planting help in providing the cold temperature treatment peonies need to bloom?

Rick Rogers: The shallow planting will help. Peonies need 400-900 h of sub-40F temperatures.

Joan Trindle: What kind of water quality issues do you face in your propagation and are any of the plants you work with candidates for some of the wetland/pond treatment facilities?

Jim Purcell: Absolutely. I am pondering putting in a septic system with a lagoon that actually replaces a septic system. Water hyacinths are routinely used in tropical countries and some of the warmer climates of this country, at least experimentally, for reducing the BODs in water and then using the plants as a mulch or livestock fodder.

Terry Finnerty: What regulations are in place, if any, to protect from the possible danger of spread of your plant materials?

Jim Purcell: The grower and shipper have the responsibility to know what restrictions may apply anywhere they ship.

Hannah Mathers: How are the insectivorous plants propagated?

Jim Purcell: They are propagated by division, but we are not propagating any of those at this time.

Carole Barnett: What medium do you use in the plugs?

Gina Falcetti: It's Ball #3 mix.

Anonymous: What fungicides are you using?

Gina Falcetti: Banrot is used as a preventative. In the case of *Dianthus* and *Phlox*, we use Chipco or Daconil to prevent *Alternaria*.