

cuttings. In each lot points were assigned to each cutting based on rooting quality (excellent = 3; good = 2; fair = 1) and then totaled. Each lot of cuttings numbered 10; however, in two trials there were insufficient cuttings to do five full treatments.

The maximum number of quality points possible then, in a lot of 10 cuttings, would be 30 (10 excellents). I should point out, as an example, that Lot 1 may have a higher rooting percentage than Lot 2 but its quality points total may actually be lower, betraying the fact that Lot 1 had fewer cuttings rated good and excellent than did Lot 2.

Thus, the rooting percentage **together** with the quality points total provide a more accurate indication of performance.

As the results show, the toothpick trick worked quite well in each trial, producing a higher number of quality points for all taxa.

I think the toothpick method may provide an advantage for two reasons: first, it plugs the soft pith chamber and may prevent rot from gaining entrance. Also there may be a slower, longer release of hormone, distributed more evenly through the base of the cutting.

This technique would benefit from a follow-up study that includes larger lots and a greater variety of taxa, and I hope I can get around to that this summer. I invite others to try it, and suggest that plastic gloves be worn when handling the toothpicks.

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*Bud of M. 'Hattie Carthan'*