

Native Woody Shrub Propagation Three Key Steps

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The increased demand for native, woody plant species in public and private landscapes has resulted in a renewed interest in native, woody shrub propagation. This poster presents a comprehensive approach for incorporating the large amount of information that is already available on many of the native, western, woody shrubs into existing propagation programs.

Facts are meaningful only when they can be attached to ideas. Unless students (people) are taught a system for learning or processing information, facts are of little use to them. (Wurman 1990, parentheses inserted by author.)

This poster presentation is a revision of a talk that was given at the Western Forest Nursery Association Meeting at Fallen Leaf Lake, California in September, 1992. It was later published as a paper in the Proceedings of that conference. (Finnerty and Hutton, 1993.)

While preparing the presentation I discovered that there was already a great deal of information available about many of the plants of interest. Much of the information about native shrub propagation was compiled from public and private sources in the late 1970s and 1980s as land management agencies and private industry responded to the challenge of land revegetation with native plant species.

I decided that more than simply describing the specific treatments used for a variety of species, it might be more beneficial to growers to show them some of the information that is already available for many of the native woody shrubs; and present it in a way that could help them use the information more effectively in their own propagation programs.

The three key steps, “**Know Your Plants**”, “**Planning and Scheduling**”, and “**Recordkeeping**” presented in the poster are the context in which the existing propagation information might be used more effectively. References for specific information about the plants or suggested methods for propagating them follow this summary.

- **Know your plants** includes acquiring some understanding of the ecological influences and plant characteristics that may affect plant growth; and becoming familiar with some of the pre-treatments necessary to improve germination.
- **Planning and scheduling** deals with setting up a propagation program based upon what is known about the plants, and how you, the grower, intend to produce the plants based upon your schedule and production capabilities.
- **Recordkeeping** emphasizes keeping good records to keep track of information about the plants, scheduling, and other useful information for increasing future propagation success and profitability.

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