regime affects not only the pathogen but also the host. Under drought conditions they reported that cracking of the roots can occur and these become loci for infection.

Species of *Pestalotiopsis* and *Monochaetia* cause leaf petiole diseases. *Pestalotiopsis* thrive under wet conditions and is spread in water droplets. In experimental work by Dr. Smith she proved that very little infection occurred on capillary beds as against the same crop irrigated by overhead sprays.

Peculiarly, there is also evidence to suggest that *Phytophthora* does not spread from pot to pot. That the upward action of the capillary prevents the downward movement of zoospores. The final advantage of capillary beds where disease does occur is that as the bed is a sealed system and with the network of drainage pipes they can be effectively sterilized.

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MONROVIA NURSERY COMPANY: PROUD OF OUR PAST— BUT LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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SUMMARY

Monrovia Nursery Company was founded in 1926 by Henry E. Rosedale on a ten acre site in Monrovia, California. In 1952 the nursery moved to Azusa to allow for expansion.

Today Monrovia Nursery produces 55 to 60 million plants annually on two 500 acre nurseries in Azusa, California and Dayton, Oregon. Both nursery sites have been selected because of their microclimate and the readily available source of high quality water. At each nursery fertiliser is put into the growing medium and this is supplemented by nutrients in the irrigation water, which is recycled. The water treatment plant adds fertilisers and herbicide to the water before it is reused. The health of plants is regularly monitored by the Research and Development Department.

The two different growing locations enables the Company to produce over 1200 plant cultivars and introduce over 150 new plant cultivars.

The majority of the production is outdoors but some five acres of greenhouses are used for tender plants such as *Hibiscus* and *Gardenia*. Over 70 acres of shade houses are used for *Camellia*, *Azalea*, ferns, and liner production.

Approximately 1000 people are employed in both nurseries with up to 400 working in the 70 acres of propagation area. Cuttings account for 80 to 90% of production. Between 35 to 150 people produce 50 million cuttings per annum. The majority are inserted into trays after disinfestation and hormone treatment, followed by setting under outdoor mist.

Propagation by seed accounts for 8 to 15% of production. All seed is sown by 2 or 3 people that is either collected on the nursery or purchased from around the world.

Between 3 and 6% of production comes from fern propagation, budding, grafting and tissue culture. Grafting is mainly used for fruit plants and southern magnolias. Upright junipers were grafted but are now produced from cuttings. The tissue culture laboratory produces about one million plants that are either difficult to propagate or in short supply such as *Syringa*, *Actinidia*, *Bergenia*, and *Magnolia*, per annum.

Potting or canning of liners and larger grades is done by crews out in the nursery using a soil-based growing medium. Up to 15 crews of 12 workers can each plant 24,000 #1 or 7,500 #5 containers per day.

During spring, the busiest time for shipping, 35 semi-trucks are loaded per day. Weekly deliveries of plants with the label "Distinctively Better" are made throughout the United States and Canada; 85% of all stock is sent out between March and June. About 65% of our business is sent out of state in refrigerated trucks.