

# the Propagator

International Plant Propagators' Society <http://aus.ipps.org/>  
Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2020 - No: 67

## QR Codes

It seems that every day now I have to scan a QR code, and for some days several times. This is certainly something I would never have dreamt of last year before this became the app to use to register attendance at a venue, enabling rapid tracking of people in the event of positive Covid 19 cases being present.

QR is an abbreviation of Quick Response, but that unfortunately has not been my experience all the time. This appears mainly to be due to availability of mobile data, and the need to use different readers likely depending on if the website linked to is a NSW government one or private one.

QR codes are a form of two dimensional matrix pattern that can store much more information than barcodes that we as an industry are very familiar with. They were invented in 1994 for use by the automotive industry in Japan. The code consists of a black pattern on white background that is read by optical readers (apps on mobile phones). They can be used for product identification and traceability, document management, and marketing.

My first experience with QR codes was several years ago through IPPS when Clive Larkman was describing their use on plant labels allowing customers to quickly access more detailed information on growing and using particular plants than could be shown on a small label. Following on from that we started using QR codes for customers to link to our nursery website pages. Sadly at the time we found that most retail customers had no idea what the code was or how to access it, so we stopped

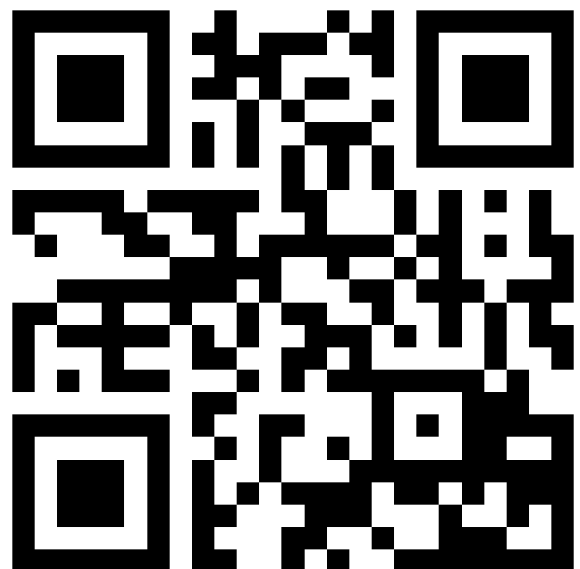
using them.

It is not difficult to generate a unique code for any page of a website as there are numerous QR code generators available on the internet. The one on this page was generated to link to the Australian region news page as an example. Try it out with your phone with a QR reader.

One of the lessons of life is that timing is very important, and now that the general population widely use QR codes we have as an industry an opportunity with this tool. Although I suspect that the younger generation of plants people will be the most common adopters ... time will tell.

With a sense of optimism for 2021 and on behalf of your board I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Bruce Higgs



### THIS EDITION

<p><b>QR Codes</b> <b>North American Summit News</b></p>	<p>Reports <b>President's Report</b> <b>Executive Officer's Report</b> <b>Newsletter Editors Comment</b></p>
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## President's Report

Hello fellow members of the international plant propagators society.

As you may know the vote to change the name of the Society was not successful, so we progress emphasising the unique position that as plant producers we encompass a very broad range of interest. Our strength is our networking, and being able to discuss different production systems among ourselves plus anybody that wishes to grow plants.

As I sit at my computer after seeing our lovely crop of poinsettias going out the door, I ponder the work that went into this crop. We started in July with the rooted cuttings produced in Melbourne, and put them under lights for 14 hours a day for the first 3 months then rudely shocked them and put them in the dark for 14 hours for the next 8 weeks. But that is the easy part of the programme, I see a bigger challenge for the producers of the cuttings getting them ready for me in July. I assume as I am sending out our finished product they are starting with the next season mother stock, keeping them growing, clean, free from insect attack, over the hottest part of the year, then producing hundreds of thousands of cuttings for us finishers. So nothing is what is seems, we are all thinking of the next generation of product knowing full well that if we don't start growing today we will have nothing ready for the future.

Our society is in a similar boat, we have to keep together and plan for get together, it's unfortunate that a virus is giving us "hiccups", and the board and I have been hoping that we could organise a meet in Geelong 2021. But we are a conservative group, and the risk though small, is too big a gamble for us to meet next year. This will also limit our exchange members from and to South Africa region for the coming year, hopefully re-established for the next year.

During today I met with one of our local charities, and though we have been extremely busy and struggling to supply plant requests, they on the other hand have seen a huge increase in demand for their services for all of the wrong reasons. As an industry we have benefited, we have employed more people, making a small contribution but hopefully a positive one.

In the New Year we hope to have some virtual tours of work places. What we have to do is work out the best way to proceed, and after watching some of the Ameri-



can IPPS meets and tours I believe it will be quite positive for us to have a go. So if any of you wish to be involved please drop me a line and we still work out how and when.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas, and thank you for your continued support.

Cheers

Tony Vander Staay

## Executive Officer's Report

### COVID-19

It is very encouraging, coming into the Christmas Season, to see some easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions across the country which means you can now make the trip you have been putting off, be it for business or pleasure.

We know that like us, you are all doing your best to protect your business, your loved ones and yourselves.

Stay safe and well over the Christmas Season.

### IPPS OFFICE

Even though the IPPS Office slows down at this time of the year, I am still kept busy tending to general office and in-house duties.



### Membership Subscription Renewal

Members will shortly receive an automated renewal notice generated from the International Board advising that your

IPPS Membership will expire on 01.01.2021.

The Australian Region Office will still manage membership subscriptions and I will be sending out Tax Invoice for Membership Renewals to all Members in January 2021.

**If you experience difficulties please do not hesitate to contact me. Credit Card or EFT facility are the preferred options.**

## INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

– <http://www.ipps.org/>

### Great online features!

#### Mobile friendly

Looks great on mobile devices too. Web content adapts beautifully to any screen size.

#### Proceedings library

Access to all past and current Proceedings, conveniently in the members' only online section. Download individual papers or a complete volume with a click of a button.

#### Searchable database

Find information you're looking for on the site quickly

#### Media Centre

IPPS news articles, photo galleries and video galleries keeping you informed of IPPS activities worldwide.

#### Register for events online

Access event information and do bookings online

#### Apply for membership online

Apply for or renew annual membership online.

#### Ten websites, one system

A professional look throughout all IPPS websites. The layout is clear and easy to navigate.

#### Japanese & Chinese characters

On the Japan and China sites text can be entered in Japanese and Chinese

#### Dedicated IPPS hosting server

Hosting service by GoDaddy in the USA, ensuring uninterrupted service.

## CONTACT DETAILS

To ensure Office records are kept 'up to date'. I would appreciate it if Members could please notify me of any changed contact details. In particular, if you have changed your telephone provider recently, *please* remember to forward your new email address onto me at [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)

Pam Berryman

## IPPS North American Summit, Oct. 27-29 2020

The Summit was held as a Zoom webinar with host teams from each of the three North American regions, presented with both live feed as well as pre-recorded video. For us in Australia, and especially for those on the East coast attending the summit live meant staying up late on the first two days and tuning in at 6am on the Friday. The content was very much the same as in many conferences with a variety of topics to appeal to such a wide international audience. The Western Region component also included presentations from the prospective Indian region. Many thanks to the sponsors; <https://www.ippsnorthamericansummit.com/>

A feature of conferences is meeting and sharing and the Southern region had a special time set aside on Zoom for people to share during "Happy Hour". Unfortunately for me to attend would have meant only a few hours sleep in-between. Members recently completed a survey on the summit, and as it was recorded it should be made available soon to review.

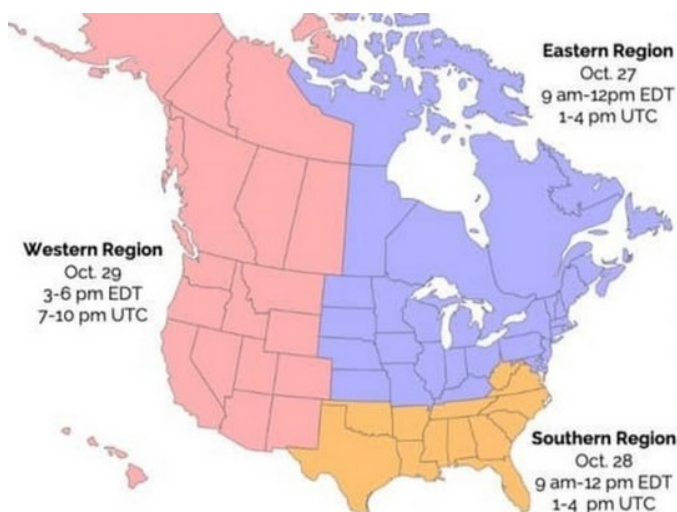
Here is a brief recap of the presentations.

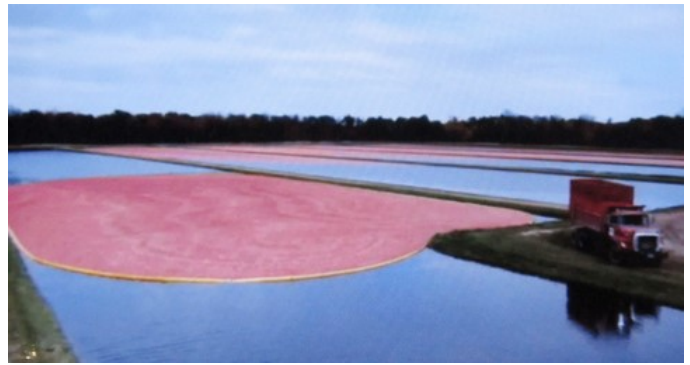
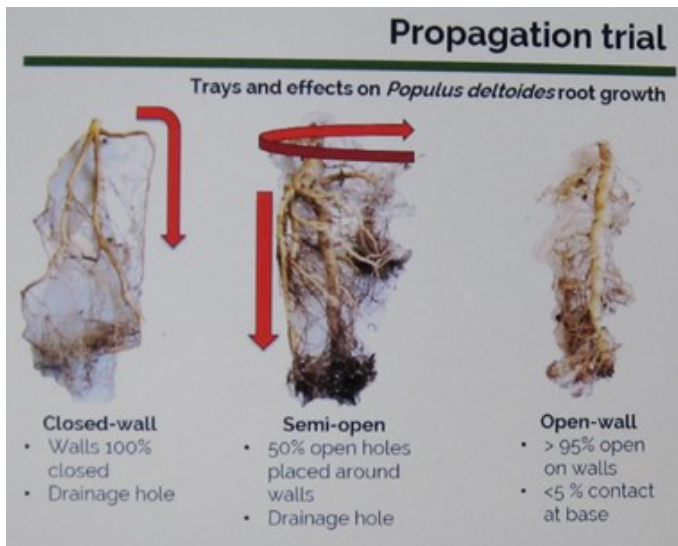
Cheryl Boyer from Kansas State University facilitated the sessions. Shelby French was our host from Eastern region on the first day.

#### Executing Change Amid Crisis

**Terri McEnaney, Bailey Nurseries, Inc., Minnesota,** <https://baileynurseries.com/innovations/>

Just as IPPS is far more than propagation, Bailey Nurseries has a diverse business. President of Bailey Nurseries, Inc., Terri McEnaney provided a video tour of their nurseries and spoke on "Executing Change Amid Crisis." As the pandemic has changed our industry, she shared Bailey Nurseries' outlook for the future and some of the things they are doing to re-imagine their strategies





Evergreen Nursery is home to nearly 30 full time employees. Last year they delivered nursery stock to 27 states and Canada.

### 10 Grower Good Ideas

**Alex Verbinnen, Verbinnen's Nursery, Ontario, Canada**

Verbinnen's Nursery is a propagator and grower of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants located in Southern Ontario. Alex Verbinnen shared his top ten ideas Verbinnen's Nursery has adopted which have been successful.

1. Posting availability list online
2. Colour tags and identification code
3. Getting processes moving; conveyor belts, eliminate staking
4. When to space plants – watch & care for lower leaves
5. Sprinklers with changeable nozzles – eg RainBird 2045PJ
6. Greenhouse roof safety - anchorage
7. Sub-dressing fertilizer application – more efficient
8. Bulb trays – pot wind stability, spacing, carrying plugs and pots
9. Plug to field transplanting system – drip irrigation under plastic
10. Gizmos and Gadgets – Bluetooth logger, mobile Sprayers, battery powered irrigation controllers, easy sheds.

**Southern Region** – hosted by Brie Arthur

**Tips and Tricks for Propagating Difficult to Root Species**  
**Dr. David Creech, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas**

<http://www.sfasu.edu/about-sfa/newsroom/2020/dr-david-creech-named-international-plant-propagators-society-fellow>

“Recounting a lifetime of sticking a wide range of woody and herbaceous cuttings condensed into twenty minutes. Every batch of cuttings is a brand-new story and a myriad of variables influence successful rooting. Time of year, hormones (powder, solution, or gel), mist propagation, bottom heat, heated mist, substrate drainage, light (intensity and photoperiod) and the character of each cutting is a determinant. For difficult to root

with the many opportunities that are out there today.

### Air-Pruning Trays and Trees: What's it All About?

**Dr. Darby McGrath, Vineland Research, Ontario, Canada**

Air-pruning Rootsmart™ propagation trays were developed to help produce high-quality tree root systems. A variety of products are available with features ranging from simple drainage holes, holes or slits in walls to fully wall-less and bottomless trays, so how much air-pruning is enough? Dr. McGrath presented their findings on the effect of air-pruning “levels” on tree root systems in propagation and in the field.

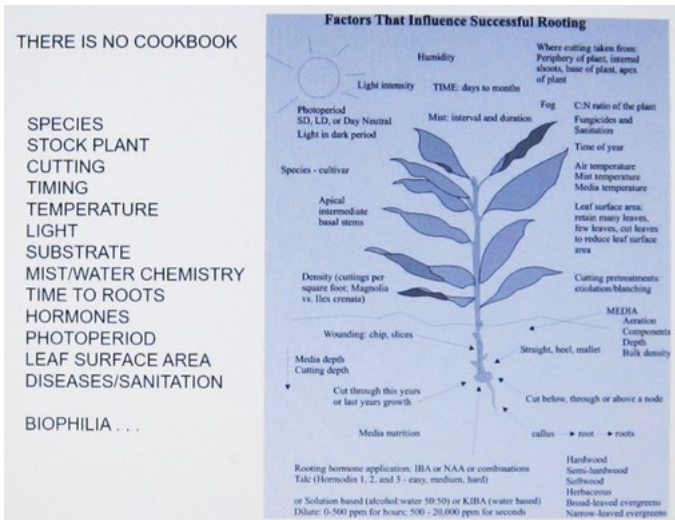
### Student Presentations

**Connor Hagemeyer**, masters student at North Dakota State University presented his propagation work with *Betula tianshanica*. Micropropagation gave the best results, and grafted plants were also successfully grown.

**Joshua Kight**, masters student at the University of Kentucky presented his research on the foliar spray application of K-IBA in propagation of *Viburnum dentatum* and *Euonymus alatus*.

### Tour of Evergreen Nursery Company, Wisconsin, USA led by Ron Amos

Evergreen Nursery Company, founded in 1864, produces more than three million liners (tubes) a year. They are located 1½ miles from Lake Michigan in the town of Evergreen. Evergreens are grown from seed and hardwood cuttings. Birch liners are propagated using many different methods including seed, cuttings and micro propagation. Deciduous shrub liners come from softwood and hardwood cuttings and micro propagation. They also grow hundreds of thousands of cranberry plant liners each year in plugs from hardwood cuttings. Currently



species, the best propagators are constantly experimenting to find the correct timing and protocol that leads to successful rooting.” Tips that work for them included using a damp towel for cuttings, increased light to strike cuttings and for Blueberries sticking two cuttings into 4” pots in June.

**Designer Genes, Designer Redbuds: 20 Years of Cercis Breeding - Dr. Dennis Werner, J.C. Raulston Arboretum, North Carolina State University, USA**

<https://jcra.ncsu.edu/publications/newsletters/10-vol-4-no-2/10-vol-4-no-2.php>

The accomplishments made in the redbud breeding program over the past 20 years were summarised, reviewing the most recent cultivar releases, and the goals of the program moving forward. He also discussed some of the mutations in redbud, and how they interact to allow for the creation of new and novel forms. He also explored breeding sweetgums (Liquidambar).

IPPS Southern Region offers awards for original research results pertinent to the production of horticultural crops in the southern USA. **Charlie Parkerson Virtual Student Research Competition Winners:**

**Morphological and Cytological Characterization of Six Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta spp.*) Selections –Brooks Parrish, University of Florida – First Place**

**Influence of substrate stratification and fertilizer placement on growth of ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonicum*) and germination and biomass of bittercress (*Cardamine flexuosa*) in containers. -Yuvraj Khamare, University of Florida – Second Place**

**Where did the Water Go? – Brian Schulker, North Carolina State University – Third Place**

**Western Region and Indian Sub-continent -Friday**



**Denver Botanic Garden Steppe Collection Tour, Colorado, USA - Tour led by Mike Bone, Curator of the Steppe Collection** <https://www.botanicgardens.org/our-collections/living-collections/steppe-collection>

The tour started off at Chatfield Farm and then on to the Denver Botanic Gardens. It was interesting to see indigenous and steppe plants from around the world.

**Modes of Pollination in some Indigenous Orchids of North-East India with special emphasis on orchids of Nagaland State, India - Dr. Sunil Chaturvedi**



North East India has 900 species from 165 genera of orchids, which is 72.8% of the species in India. Modes of pollination and pollinators were discussed for a number of species from the region. <https://nagauniv.academia.edu/sunilchaturvedi>

**Tour J. Frank Schmidt & Son Nursery, Oregon, USA**  
**Tour led by Guy Meacham, Product Development Manager**

A variety of propagation and growing techniques used by the nursery were explained for a variety of plants dealt with. <https://www.jfschmidt.com/>

**Studies on Mangrove Trees and Biotechnology**  
**Prof. Prakash Kumar –University of Singapore**

Soil Salinity is a major problem for agriculture across the world. Mangroves are halophytes – they efficiently filter salt at roots and have salt secreting glands on the leaves. The endodermis is the key barrier to apoplastic flow of NaCl in roots and is associated with suberin dep-

osition. Physiological and genetic studies of mangroves have allowed modification and improved salt tolerance in rice. <https://www.dbs.nus.edu.sg/staffs/prakash-kumar/>

#### **Tour Rajat Biotech India Tissue Culture Lab, India Tour led by Vinod Kumar Soni**

The Rajat Biotech India tissue culture lab produces fruit trees for the Himalayan Belt. India ranks second to China in the worlds fruit production and through a huge growth over recent years ranks fifth in apple production. This paper discussed how this company interacts with growers and their micropropagation of fruit, especially apples. <https://www.rajatbiotech.com/>

#### **Tour The Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden, Washington, USA - Tour led by Richie Steffen, Executive Director** <https://www.millergarden.org/the-garden/>

Along with a very colourful virtual tour of the gardens the Great Plant Picks program was explained where over 1,000 plants have been chosen for recommended planting in the local region: <https://greatplantpicks.org/>

### **News**

**The 2020 International Award of Honor to Dr. Gene Blythe** was announced during the North American online Summit. Since working for Monrovia in 1980 he has authored 720 research papers and a propagation manual. Gene has also attended 66 annual meetings, an enviable IPPS member achievement indeed.

The Eastern Region have two online micro-meetings planned that members could register for:

17 December 2020

[IPPS microMEETING #6:How to Grow Horticulture: Support Winners](#) student presentations.

21 January 2021

[microMEETING #7: Winter Grafting at Decker Nursery](#) basic grafting procedures for Junipers.

#### **Result of Name Rebrand Vote – from International Website news**

Thank you to all of you who took the time to vote for our name rebrand in October.

The results have been verified and the motion to change the name failed.

While there are many people on both sides of the motion for changing our name, we have heard from the

membership and must move forward with our current name. We continue working to teach people our purpose, the diverse topics presented in our meetings, and why membership is important to them.

The results have been thoroughly checked to ensure all voters were eligible and there was a good turnout electorally speaking in most Regions.

With this good level of engagement in making IPPS an all-inclusive Society, let us spend our energy continuing to promote the benefits that inspire us and were much in evidence in the recent North American Summit.

T.J. Lawrance-Owen

IPPS International Board Chair

### **IPPS Challenge**

*How have you coped with the effect of drought, floods, cyclones, fires and Covid 19 over the last 12 months?*

*It is likely that things will now change into the future, how should IPPS change to meet the challenges this presents us into the future, so that the society continues to be of value to horticulture and horticulturists?*

**It would be appreciated if you could forward your response to me so that it may be published in a future edition. Your opinion is valued by the board.**

Bruce Higgs

### **Newsletter Editors Comment**

Other regions especially the Eastern Region are trying various forms of online and live streamed events. Micro meetings and streamed site visits and the October Summit are examples of this. If you feel that you could assist with something like this for Australia then please contact your local board member or Pam. If you have a mobile phone or camera then you could be well on the way. I am still optimistic for 2022 for our 50<sup>th</sup> meeting to reinvigorate the society and our region.

If you are not already a member join up soon. The region also has a [facebook site](#) with horticultural news items, international events and photos as well from past conference tours and activities - search for "International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia". **Pass your extra printed copy of the newsletter around at work.** A copy of this newsletter and a selection of previous ones are available in colour at <http://aus.ipps.org/news>

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