

# ***National Nursery Issues***

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## ***National Nursery Directory***

Cooperative Forestry is updating the very popular, but outdated, "Directory of Forest Tree Nurseries in the United States" which was last published in 1987. This directory is the only national listing of forest and conservation nurseries and is used by potential seedling buyers to locate seedlings, as well as others needing information on nursery location and production capability. Debie Okholm and Ray Abriel of our Portland Office will be circulating a short questionnaire to forest and conservation nurseries across the US this summer. Please take the time to fill it out promptly and completely so that we can make the fall publishing deadline. Any nurseries failing to respond will be deleted from the mailing list and will not be included in the directory. Free copies of the Directory will be announced in FNN sometime during the coming Winter. If you need more information, you can contact Debie or Ray at my address--see the inside cover page.

## ***Methyl Bromide Fumigants***

No, I don't have any earthshaking developments about the purported effect of methyl bromide on the ozone layer and probable ban on soil fumigation. See the last few issues of FNN for the latest technical and political details. The US Department of Agriculture sponsored a "Methyl Bromide Alternatives Research Workshop" late last month which was attended by participants from industry, university and government. Development of IPM systems to ameliorate the loss of methyl bromide was selected as a top research priority, along with the development of substitute chemicals and cultural controls. I'll keep my ear to the ground and report further developments in future FNN issues.

## ***Legal Labeling of Growing Media***

The "Horticultural Growing Medium Act" that is currently being considered in the state of Georgia is a result of a sharp rise in the number of problems with growing medium quality in the Southeast in recent years. Spot inspections of commercial brands of growing media have turned up mislabeled bags and improperly filled orders. Subsequent tests from unopened bags found pH levels over 7.0, ammoniacal nitrogen exceeding 100 ppm, and soluble salts greater than 2.0 mmhos/cm. Obviously, using media of this poor quality could cause serious problems, especially with young succulent seedlings. Growing media was also sampled from containers after 4-10 weeks of nursery culture and chemical tests showed that the pH of some samples had risen as high as 7.6 to 7.8.

The proposed law would require the growing medium producer to:

1. *Register their products with the state Department of Agriculture.*
2. *Clearly list growing medium components and amendments, and the date the bag was filled on the label or an accompanying data sheet.*
3. *Be able to support claims of product suitability by filing scientific proof with the Department of Agriculture.*

The label or data sheet would have to state the presence and form of nitrogen and other mineral nutrients, lime, soluble salts, initial pH, and expected pH change. The law would not require disclosure of proprietary components or mix ratios, and would not affect those who mix their own media. Obviously, some growing media suppliers have expressed concern but most prefer this to the alternative, which would be to regulate media under more restrictive fertilizer labeling rules.

The law was passed by the Georgia Legislature in March of this year, and would tentatively take effect on July 1, 1994. This legislation could conceivably set an industry standard for other states, and so stay tuned.

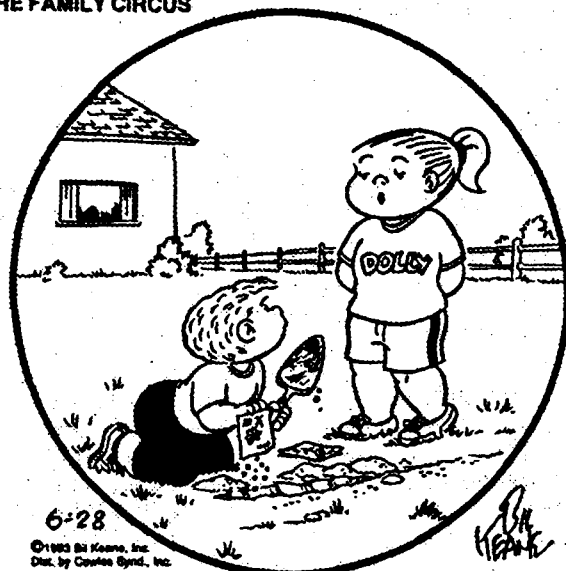
**Sources:**

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Thomas, P. A. Bill targets producers of media. *Greenhouse Manager* 11(11): 88-90, 92-94. March, 1993.

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



**"If you want them to grow, you  
hafta say a prayer to your  
gardening angel."**