

# EQUIPMENT USED IN THE PACKING OF CONIFER PLANTING STOCK

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In this day and age of high labor costs, the planter should be assured of high-quality material that he can reasonably expect to survive. Two installations have increased the quality of the conifer plants we ship from the J. V. Bailey Nurseries. These two installations used in handling conifers have been of great benefit in increasing survival in the final planter's hands. The cost is not great and certainly the benefits have been worthwhile.

First, automatic humidification has been installed in the areas where the evergreen plants are sorted and packaged for shipping. This is important because it reduces any possibility of desiccation of the fine roots during the packaging processes. As is well known, it is necessary for the roots to be exposed to the air at this time. The J. V. Bailey Nursery has been using the Binks System. The humidity is kept at around 90 to 95 percent at all times. While this may sound high, it is not uncomfortable for workers and it is not detrimental to the top part of the plants.

The second installation is a refrigerated room adjacent to the sorting and packing area where plants can be held overnight or for several days or even weeks without deterioration of quality. The temperature here is carried at 34 degrees and the humidity is controlled at 90 to 95 percent.

Since we have had so much success with these two installations I would urge all producers of evergreen stock to give consideration to automatic humidification and refrigeration.