

b.c. nursery trades association

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Kamloops Chapter

c/o R.D. Williams, Sect/treas.
Cariboo College
P.O. Box 3010
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November 12, 1980

NEWS RELEASE

Successful Foliage Plant Clinic at Cariboo College

Seventy participants attended the jointly sponsored Foliage Plant Clinic in Kamloops, Friday November 7th. Cariboo College and the Kamloops Chapter of the B.C. Nursery Trades Association teamed up to give this well-received seminar. Participants came from as far away as Vancouver, Prince George, the Okanagan Valley, and the Kootenays. The Practical Horticulture class at the College was also in attendance as part of their curriculum.

Herb vander Ende, of Burnaby Lake Greenhouses, started off the morning by giving a slide show following the cuttings from their source in California, Florida, and Hawaii, to Burnaby Lake Greenhouses to be grown on as saleable wholesale pot plants. In the last five years Hawaii has become an important source of liner material, with the ease of air transportation in containers - approximately 1200 plants per container. There is a trend towards shipping larger liners, for example, 18" Dieffenbachias in two inch pots, to be grown on in B.C. to saleable plant size in as little as 5 to 6 weeks.

Participants were impressed by the degree of mechanization now found in Greenhouses - plants untouched by human hands, and loading semi-trailer trucks by computer.

Dave Tarrant, Education Coordinator for the U.B.C. Botanical Garden covered all aspects of plant maintenance, bringing out some of the problems we face in the house and office environment. "There is no such thing as a house plant", therefore all plants will suffer. The public is probably not aware that most office plants, expecially those in low light situations are replaced every three or four months.

Frank van Hest, owner/operator of Art Knapp's in Richmond gave an entertaining, yet very informative presentation on how to merchandise foliage plants. Service was number one, and always start out your day as a ten. Through examples and slides Frank pointed out some of the problems in merchandising — cluttered displays, low light intensity and poorly trained staff.

To maintain and enhance the professionalism within the horticultural industry Cariboo College and the Kamloops Chapter of the B.C. Nursery Trades Association

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are planning two clinics in the Spring of 1981. One in February will be aimed at the retail nurseryman and the other in March, on arboriculture (the study of trees) will be aimed at landscapers and plant maintenance personell.

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