

Cleaning float trays

By: Tom Mills

County Extension Agent for Agriculture/Natural Resources

The greenhouse and float transplant production systems offer many advantages to tobacco transplant producers. However, a disadvantage of the float system is that it provides an ideal habitat for the development and spread of transplant diseases due to the constant presence of water. Therefore, a key to success with these production systems is keeping the pathogen causing diseases out of the system.

A diligent sanitation program is a MUST. The media and water being used should be pathogen-free. All equipment and tools that come in contact with the system should be pathogen-free. That means either using new trays or re-used trays must be properly washed and sanitized.

What is available to disinfect trays? Steam, bleach, and quaternary ammonium chlorate salts are available in Kentucky.

STEAMING The trays has been the most effective disinfectant, but the cost is high and some items are damaged by steaming. Most studies indicate that the trays need to reach at least 160 degrees for 30 minutes, but this method presents problems for farmers in developing equipment to meet the temperature and time required.

FUNGICIDES Methyl bromide with 1% chloroxin has been almost as effective as steam in some of the trays. It provides excellent control of Rhizoctonia and other fungi on the surface of the tray. It will greatly reduce the level of Pythium, but has not been as effective as steam or proper bleaching in reducing Pythium.

Probably because a significant amount of Pythium is found embedded in the tray. It is important to have an air-tight plastic seal, to pre-wet the trays, and to avoid large stacks of trays. Methyl bromide is heavier than air, so it sinks, therefore, best results occur with long, short stacks rather than tall, deep stacks. We have found little control is provided at the low rates, so use the maximum labeled rates (1 lbs/1000 cubic ft). Certain types of styrofoam trays appear to be more easily damaged with the chemical. Pay special attention to ALL label precautions related to use.

CHLORINE BLEACH solutions have

given a high level of control. Just dipping the trays in the solution and allowing them to dry is not sufficient. We have found little benefit to using more than 10% solution. Without proper aeration and point-of-use, the chlorine can create serious problems, especially with older trays that tend to soak up more material.

Bleaches work best when the trays are washed with soapy water, then dipped several times into clean 10% solution (1 gal water/10 lbs bleach). After washing with a tarp or plastic to keep them wet overnight (24-48 hrs) with the bleaching solution. Afterwards, the bleach solution should be washed from the trays with clean water or water plus a 0.5% bleach solution. Followed by aeration. O-salts held in the chlorine and salt. Worker safety issues are also important with bleach. It is important that the bleach solution remain below pH 8 and that new solutions be made up every 2 hrs or whenever it becomes dirty, whichever comes first. Organic matter will remove the active ingredients quickly.

Q-SALTS (Quaternary ammonium chloride salts). These are marketed under the name of Greenleaf Phoson, and prevent as solutions containing 20% ammonium chloride. Many growers are using them, but the effects are not as positive as some believe, based on UK testing. The greatest benefit is in the final wash and on exposed surfaces in the greenhouse. In all UK tests, Q-salts have always provided some control, as compared to using soap washes only, but have always been inferior to any of the above mentioned methods.

Bottom Line Remove as much soil from the trays by using soap and water or high pressure washes. Completely soak the trays in 10% bleach solution and cover with plastic for 24-48 hours, followed by washing and airtight. Turn trays on their side for best air movement. Trays which are damaged allowing large amounts of soil into soil media to remain in crevices are candidates for being disposed of. Sanitation is very important. As trays are used more, more disease problems occur. For producers with DIST 4 meters, an annual calibration is recommended. Contact the Extension Office if you would like to check your meters' accuracy.

Listen to your children

By: Hand Jackson
County Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer Sciences

All human beings long to be heard, understood and appreciated. It's true of you; me and our children. Assume your children that you do listen to them by taking time to show you're interested in what they have to say and their feelings and dreams. This shows children you respect what they have to say. Equally important, the children will learn to treat others with the same sensitivity you've shown them. They also will listen to and respect other people's visions and viewpoints.

As you listen to your children, they will learn by example to respectfully listen to what you and others are saying. Listening also will help children express themselves and develop self-confidence.

These tips will help you better listen to your children's feelings and dreams.

1. To let your child know he or she has your attention, gently touch the child before the child begins to talk to you.

2. Remember, you're not truly listening to a child if you're reading the newspaper or thinking about something that happened that day. Stop what you're doing and look at the child, paying attention to what is said.

3. It's important not to always stand over your son or daughter, so sit or place yourself at the same level as your child. Continually standing above children tends to make them feel overpowered and "little."

4. Develop the habit of reaching out to your children by trying to understand and feel the world from their points of view.

5. To help your children gain knowledge, skills and a sense of responsibility, let them take part in household decisions such as helping decide where to go on a family weekend outing or choosing their clothes.

6. Compile a short, simple list of who does what. Be sure to divide responsibilities equally and fairly. Break larger jobs down into several parts. Give advance notice of upcoming chore assignments and deadlines.

7. Make sure children's responsibilities are age appropriate. Give children different jobs each week; variety adds spice and gives youngsters different experiences.

A child will rarely do a job as well at first as an adult might. A child will be less eager to help out if you complain that the chore wasn't done just like you would have accomplished it. Be patient, appreciative and generous with praise for what the child has accomplished.

Remember, children generally like for you to work side-by-side with them.

For more information, contact the Extension Service at 256-2403.

Gardening & Landscaping Tips

By: Max Phelps

Loss of Landscape or Forest Trees may yield breaks at tax time

As both experienced landscape professional and tax specialist I want to ask, "Has there been a sudden loss or destruction of your yard or farm trees?"

If your answer is yes, here's some timely advice: "Take a casualty or theft loss on damaged or missing trees!"

I will attempt to give some simple-to-understand details of how an unfortunate loss of trees or landscaping might lead to a tax deduction. (Not every reader may be in need of a tax break, but I bet some are for sure.)

A lot of pine trees have been killed by the Southern Pine Beetle. This sudden and unexpected loss of timber or yard trees is a casualty.

A flood caused death or loss of your "green" property. This is a casualty loss. (Unless you were fully paid by an insurance company's check.)

Wind or tornado damage (possibly snow or hail damage) to your trees and plants is a casualty loss. Fire, whether forest fire or house fire, can create a casualty loss. Someone stealing plants from

your freshly landscaped yard while you were on vacation (or any time for that matter) would constitute a theft loss.

Vandalism, car wrecks, plane crashes, terrorist acts could also result in a deductible loss.

Drought or disease or destruction you yourself caused usually are not deductible scenarios.

What you "think" something is worth isn't always the case, so an appraisal would make sense. In any case, as always, get competent help with your taxes. If you need to, keep documents and records to substantiate your claim just in case Uncle Sam asks any questions.

If your paradise has met with damage this past year, maybe this will be the silver lining in your cloud.

Legislative Update

By: State Representative Danny Ford
House and Senate wrap up
February with demanding week.

Thousands of Kentuckians visited Frankfort this week, many of them schoolchildren and constituents interested in catching the 2002 General Assembly in action. They passed through Capitol halls in the midst of a busy legislative week and had the opportunity to catch both chambers - the House and Senate - in several debates.

Hundreds of senior citizens visited the Capitol last week to meet with their area legislators and let their interest in a variety of legislative issues be heard by lawmakers. And, to celebrate the last week of Black History Month, Carl Beashear, the first African-American Navy Seal, visited the General Assembly. Beashear, originally from Hardin County, Kentucky, overcame great odds with dedication and inner strength to receive many accolades from all Americans for the true hero he is.

Several bills were addressed by House members last week, including timely legislation that creates a sitting board to hear requests from power plants hoping to build "incinerator" plants in the Commonwealth. Kentucky is an obvious choice for power plants to construct so-called "incinerator" plants. These are plants located near the power source - in Kentucky it is the coal fields - to generate energy that can be sent areas across the country.

Because no one yet knows the economic and environmental impact of such plants, most legislators believe it is prudent to proceed slowly with the permitting process. HB 540 establishes this sitting board which will review the possible impact of each permit application. And, after considerable debate, the bill was approved and sent to the Senate.

HB 369 also passed the House last week. This measure will allow state employees and teachers to order their medical prescriptions through mail order pharmaceutical companies. The greatest obstacles to this measure is the effect it may have on local pharmacies and consumers will not have a local pharmacist to discuss their prescriptions with.

Information on the status of each bill we consider will be available on the Bill Status Line, 1-888-829-0021. Those with hearing impairments may leave messages for me by calling the TTY message line at 1-800-896-0305. If you have Internet access you can keep track through the Kentucky Legislature Home Page: <http://www.leg.state.ky.us>

A study group could be formed by the General Assembly to look at the way high school sports conference finalists and semi-finalist games are scheduled. HB 593 suggests the format of future high school state basketball tournaments should avoid schedules that allow teams to play two consecutive games during a tournament day. The bill is now under consideration by the Senate.

Two other bills received action in committee this week:

HB 571 makes the stalking or intimidation of any participant involved in a court proceeding a Class D offense. This includes witnesses, jurors, prosecutors, judges and defense attorneys. Members of the House Judiciary Committee approved it.

HB 541 raises juror pay to \$25 per day with a \$10 lunch allowance, which they do not have now. Kentucky's juror pay is considered low when compared with surrounding states. This measure was also approved by the House Judiciary Committee.

As of late Thursday we are up to 798 bills filed by House members and 254 by members of the State Senate. The House passed 29 bills this week. As mentioned last week many of them were actually administrative measures, however several will have a great impact on the Commonwealth. A number of the bills we have looked at have already found their way through the Senate and are returning to the House for concurrence.

Since I'm in Frankfort during the week, I can be reached toll-free at 1-800-372-7181. In addition to the message line, the General Assembly offers several other toll-free lines to help you keep up with the session. A taped message containing information on legislative committee meeting schedules is available by calling 1-800-896-5225.

Information on the status of each bill we consider will be available on the Bill Status Line, 1-888-829-0021. Those with hearing impairments may leave messages for me by calling the TTY message line at 1-800-896-0305. If you have Internet access you can keep track through the Kentucky Legislature Home Page: <http://www.leg.state.ky.us>

In and Around Mt. Vernon

By: Vallie Burton

Caleb Eaton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Eaton celebrated his 2nd birthday March 1st. We wish him many returns of the day.

Lorena Eaton and brothers, John and Jesse have been on the sick list for a few days. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Linda Eaton visited Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Coulter of Mooreville a while Wednesday.

Mrs. Ora York has returned home after recovering a few days in the Rockcastle Hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Oliver Abney was taken to the

Rockcastle Hospital last Thursday. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Mattie Patton, a Somerset resident, visited her mother, Vallie Burton Saturday.

Deepest sympathy is extended to all who have lost loved ones recently.

May the Lord comfort each one.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Reimer of Ohio visited Ms. Ora York recently.

Mrs. Linda Eaton and mother, Patricia Holland were in London Saturday.

Mrs. Della Allen has returned home after visiting her children in Ohio recently.

Mrs. Dorothy Hasty has been on the sick list a few days. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Houston visited her father, Mr. Oscar Saylor of Crab Orchard Sunday afternoon.

Shirley Burton visited Vallie Burton recently.

Mrs. Mabel Kelley is on the sick list. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Little Rent-A-Car
Low Rates
Free Miles
800-888-0000 • Berea, KY

Godfather's PIZZA
256-5079
1475 Richmond St.
Mt. Vernon, Ky.

Make A Vote To Keep Family and Friends Safe
Voters of Rockcastle County, my name is Darrell Doan and I am a candidate for Sheriff in the May Primary. I have been a Deputy in the Sheriff's Department for 16 years. My training over these years makes me, very qualified to be your Sheriff.

Some of my training includes the following:
1. Mandatory Duties of Sheriff 2. Crime Scene and Robbery Investigation 3. Drug Investigations including Under Cover and Narcotics. 4. Fraudulent/Theft Investigation 5. Vehicle/Accident Investigation 6. Trained in Life Saving Techniques 7. Reader Certified 8. Breathalyzer Test Operator (BA) 9. Vehicle Inspection 10. Chemical Weapons Training 11. Marijuana Indoor Growing Techniques and How to Spot It 12. Worked Closely With Ky. State Police and Federal Agents

If you want the most qualified and experienced candidate to serve you as Sheriff, elect me, Darrell Doan. Together we will make Rockcastle County a better place for our family and friends.

Monday Madness
Any Large One Topper
6.99

Wednesday Night Special
2 Med. 1 Toppers,
1 Med. Cheese Sixx
12.99
1 Med. Specialty Pizza,
1 Med. 1 Topper,
1 Med. Cheese Sixx
14.99

Open Sunday - Thursday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to Midnight

Godfather's PIZZA
256-5079
1475 Richmond St.
Mt. Vernon, Ky.

Taco Bell
SPECIAL OF THE WEEK
Nacho Bellgrande & Med
\$3.19 Drink
Return this coupon and receive
50¢ off any combo meal
Located at Exit 62 - Mt. Vernon

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

GEORGE W. GRIFFITH, CHAIRMAN
TERRY F. BURTON, VICE CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL BURDETTE
SAMUEL T. STALLSWORTH
MARTIN E. VANZANT

Meeting Location - Central Office Building

DRAFT AGENDA

March 12, 2002

7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER
- A. Electing of Officers
- B. Silent Prayer
- C. Roll Call
- D. Reading of Board Team Commitments

2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION

3. COMMUNICATIONS

4. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS

- A. Approve minutes of the February 12, 2002 regular monthly meeting
- B. Approve bills for payment
- C. Approve Emergency Substitute Teacher: Jeffrey Owens
- D. Approve maternity leave request for Tanya Clark (03.12.33)
- E. Approve contractual agreement between the Rockcastle County Board of Education and the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court (Rockcastle Telecommunications Center)
- F. Approve school trips as listed:

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A. Review/approve for the Rockcastle Co. Board of Education to join the Council for Better Education, Inc. at a current membership assessment of 25 cents per 2001-02 second month average daily student attendance.

6. DISCUSSION/REVIEW

- A. Review Monthly Financial Report
- B. Review Month 6 Attendance
- C. Review Superintendent's Personnel Actions Report
- D. Other

7. ADJOURNMENT