

PRODUCTION OF × *CUPRESSOCYPARIS LEYLANDII*

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I feel that Leyland cypress can become a profitable plant for the commercial nursery, but like any plant it must be looked at carefully before beginning production.

PRODUCTION

Propagation. Leyland cypress cuttings are best rooted during the fall and winter months. I think December is best in our area but have had good results in January and February. We use intermittent mist in heated greenhouses. Our findings show older, thicker cuttings — tipped out — root best. Cuttings root in eight to 12 wks. Saleable liners in 2¼-in. pots are ready in six to eight months. We use 8000 ppm IBA quick dip. It is critical to avoid drying out.

Transplanting. Rooted cuttings placed in one-gal. containers in February grow off quicker than those left in 2¼-in. pots. The cuttings from the thicker wood make the best plants. Rooted cuttings in gallons grow to a height of 10 to 12 in. in six months. Transplants, either bare-rooted or from 2¼-in. pots, planted in gallons live and grow off satisfactorily but they must be kept moist.

Fertilization. Leyland cypress plants respond well to a good fertilizer program.

Problems. Difficulties I have noted are as follows:

a. Full grown 3-gal. container plants tend to turn over easily when grown in a bark mixture. They also tend to "burn out" when jammed together.

b. From the landscape viewpoint, I find that leyland cypress must be handled very carefully in shipping and transporting to the landscape site. We planted some 3-gal. (30- to 36-in. high) size plants at our nursery last fall for stock plants. These plants all lived and most of them grew to 6 ft. in height. On landscape sites where proper irrigation was a problem, there was 50% or more plant loss of 3-gal. material. These plant losses were also due to the root systems coming loose in the container. Staking seems to help some. There was little or no loss of other species of plants on these landscape sites.

MARKETING

1. Since it is such a fast-growing plant with few disease

and insect problems, leyland cypress does have a place in the landscape and should be produced by nursery growers.

2. Since it does not transplant well balled and burlapped, and the roots easily come loose in bark mixtures, a different potting mixture should be found that can produce a more stable root ball.

3. Garden centers and landscapers will need to be educated as to the proper handling of these plants.

4. There are several cultivars of leyland cypress available. 'Leighton Green' is the most popular. I like 'Naylor Blue' with its blue tint and 'Gold Cup' with its golden tips. The variegated type is not very colorful as a large plant.

5. Selling the plants is why we are in business. Leyland cypress is a saleable plant, but we must do a better job of marketing so it will be profitable to grow. There has been some discussion that leyland cypress will replace red-tip photinia as the fastest growing hedge. First we must instruct landscape designers and garden center managers about leyland cypress, then they will have to sell it to the public.

Note It occurred to me while listening to Dr Michael Dirr, Dr. John Creech, Dr J.C. Raulston, and Don Shadow talk about possible new plant introductions that maybe we need an IPMS, International Plant Marketing Society arm of the IPPS to introduce new plants to the trade and, most importantly, to the public There are a lot of good plants available like Leyland cypress that are not being used because there is no demand. We must create a demand through better marketing

TEN OUTSTANDING FLOWERING TREES FOR POTENTIAL SOUTHEASTERN U.S. PRODUCTION

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Flowering trees are one of the most important visible parts of the landscape, adding color and drama against a green background. The southeastern U.S. is climatically suited for an enormous range of species and cultivars of flowering trees, yet relatively few taxa have become important in the nursery/landscape industries of this region. Probably 90% or more of the flowering trees now being used would be included in the following small list: *Cercis canadensis*; *Cornus florida* and cvs.; *Koelreuteria paniculata*; *Lagerstroemia indica* cvs.; *Magnolia stellata*, *M. × soulangiana*, and *M. grandiflora*; *Malus* cvs;