

tion will be available in the future. Much research on this subject needs to be done.

Air pollution was discussed briefly and is a real problem, affecting many plants. Dr. Spaulding of the University of California stated many lawn grasses are adversely affected by smog.

Discussion of the benefits of additional CO<sub>2</sub> to greenhouses was mentioned. It is too early to make any definite statements at this time although some benefits are thought to occur. Economical systems need to be available.

## **GROWING BEDDING PLANTS**

I. E. EDWARDS

*Edwards Nursery (Visalia, California)*

We grow about 40,000 flats of bedding plants and ground covers. The soil mix essentially is a U. C. mix—8 parts sand—2 parts peat—2 parts fir bark, plus additives. Starting pH is approximately 6½. Our water contains some lime and magnesium so the pH naturally goes up. All mixes are steamed to 190° F. Nitrogen is added before steaming. Ammonium Nitrate is fed using a Smith measure mix after transplanting.

Our houses are plastic, mostly poly and some mylar. All are heated with suspended blowers. Houses are designed so that most of the condensation goes outside. All growing houses are drive thru using Electric trucks.

*Seed Storage:* Pansy, Viola, Larkspur and most perennials are stored in a refrigerator at approximately 40°F. Others are at room temperature and refrigerated in summer. Getting back to soil mixes, our seed soil is essentially the same as the planting mix except no bark is used.

Due to our dry climate, moisture at germination is our big problem especially in the fall. Most of the critical seed are sown in furrows made by using a lath. Sterilized sand is used for seed cover. We have found Calendula must be kept very wet until germination.

QUESTION: How do you control drip in plastic houses?

MR. EDWARDS: Houses have a 6-12 pitch. At the plate line there is ¾" opening to allow the condensation to run through and drip off at the eave line outside.

QUESTION: How do you cover seed flats?

MR. EDWARDS: We cover seed flats with sterilized sand and sterilized muslin. Begonias are covered with plastic and muslin.

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## **FRIDAY MORNING SESSION**

**October 16, 1964**

MODERATOR: Mr. Richard C. Maire