bacterial damage in the only way they can—by increasing their production of protective chemicals. Armed with this new information, the timing aspect of azalea rooting becomes clearer. It is now possible to understand why azaleas root from new growth and dormant wood, but rarely from shoots taken from mid summer to late fall. The next step was to figure out how to use this information to our advantage.

Beginning in the Spring of 2005, we set up a repeated block experiment using four different methods of rooting *Rhododendron cumberlandense*. Thirty-six cuttings were used in each treatment. All cuttings were taken in early May. The terminal buds and all but two or three leaves were removed from each four- to six-inch cutting. The basal stems were wounded using a sharp potato peeler.

Group one was quick-dipped in a five parts water one part Dip 'N Grow® solution. The cuttings from group two were soaked in cold distilled water overnight and quick-dipped in our own solution of 3000 PPM IBA-K, 1000 PPM NAA and 1 percent DMSO. Group three was allowed to soak in cold distilled water overnight and stuck without any hormone. Group four was allowed to soak in a 0.1 M solution of cold calcium chloride and stuck without any hormone. All cuttings were stuck in 606 trays filled with aged pine bark. All four trays were placed on a 70-degree heat mat under mist that came on for five seconds every 20 minutes between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Much to our surprise, the group four cuttings which were soaked in the 0.1M calcium chloride solution rooted the best.

Discussion

There are many variables left to consider in this paper but I believe it is a start toward answering some of the questions concerning the rooting of native azaleas. It helps explain why Mike Creel's dormant cutting technique is successful. It also begins to explain why taking cuttings early in the season when phenol levels are low may improve results.

Many people have asked: Why cold calcium chloride? I used the cold CaCl because it is a well known agent in bacterial transformation. Ice cold CaCl works to neutralize the electric charge on the cell wall and membrane. It is used regularly to make bacterial cells competent for the uptake of relatively large pieces of DNA. My thinking was that if gaps in the cell can be produced large enough for DNA to get in, then phenols could get out.

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