

J & A Growers Ltd

Nursery Blog - August 2014

Welcome to a second edition of our Nursery Blog. After a slow start to the growing season, it seems that our prayers have been heard with a recent period of warmer weather and regular downpours to relieve irrigation duties (although a little heavier than needed sometimes!!!!). During a ten day period in early July we saw thorn put on a growth spurt of around 20cm and has kept growing since, which eases the mind somewhat. The same has been noted in many other crops too. Surprisingly, there has already been more rain here in 2014 than there was in the whole of 2013.

Bio-fungicide trial

Many of you will be aware there is a bio-fungicide trial at J & A Growers this year being carried out by ADAS and trialing both bio and conventional fungicides to control powdery mildew in seedling *Crataegus Monogyna*. Until the last week in July there was very little mildew to be seen in any *Crataegus*, but this has recently changed with the weather hosting near perfect conditions for spread. Due to confidentiality, we are not provided with details of the products being used, but it is now evident there are some white areas in certain sections of the trial. Snippets of information tell us that bio isn't providing us with much hope at this point and fear this isn't going to improve as the trial gets a last scoring at the end of August.



Trial plots showing a difference in severity of mildew attack.

Egedal Demo-day

Hojgard nursery in Denmark is hosting an Egedal demo-day on 25 September 2014, giving a great opportunity to view a whole range of machines working. This event allows the opportunity for questions to be asked to both the manufacturers and staff who actually work the machines so very useful for knowledge transfer. There are several UK nurseries travelling to Denmark on 24th September and returning on the evening of 25th, making their own travel plans but staying in the same accommodation. If there is anyone interested in joining this party then please contact us for further details.

Nursery Machinery website

There have been recent improvements to the Nursery Machinery website (www.nurserymachines.com) and further improvements will be ongoing. There is now a facility for posting 'Machines Wanted' and translations of the main pages into both French and German in the hope of making the site more user friendly into Europe. An important new facility to the site is the ability to 'subscribe now to receive weekly emails containing all new adverts' found in the top right corner of the home page. Please sign up to keep informed of new machinery posted each week. There is a lot more machinery due to go live very soon from individual nurseries and dealers of specialist machines, irrigation etc. If you have any items you no longer use and would like to sell, then now is the time to list when lots of people are visiting the site. Remember it is currently FREE to advertise them.

Recent shots of the nursery



Quercus Robur seedlings



Rosa Canina seedlings



Salix Caprea seedlings



Quercus Petraea 1ul

Outlook

There is still nothing being announced about an official opening date for the next round of the Woodland Creation Grant. It is going to be a challenge for all involved to get a new system implemented and grant applications submitted and approved in time for the 2015/16 planting season.

It is good that arable farmers in England will be able to use hedges to qualify for their new CAP greening payment rather than being forced to grow alternative crops or leave land fallow, but farmers have been warned they run the risk of late payment if they do so. This will certainly be the case in the early stages due to stringent mapping requirements meaning that existing maps used for agri-environment schemes will not suffice and it will take time for new maps to be generated. In the longer term, we do hope this will create a demand for planting new hedges and gapping-up to re-instate old hedgerows.