

Shoot and root weight increased with mycorrhizae

ALLEGHENY SPURGE AND PURPLE CONEFLOWER

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OBJECTIVE

Evaluate the effect of mycorrhizal inoculation on growth enhancement of different species of perennials in standard nursery conditions at the Blue Mountain Nursery.

METHODS

Rooted cuttings of Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*) and purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* cv Bravado) were transferred in a peat based medium. Nutricote (18-6-8) was mixed in the mix at a rate of 8 lbs per cubic yd. Treatments with and without mycorrhizae were used for both plant species. Plants were set up in a complete block experimental design. After potting up the plants, 6 plants per treatment were

used at each harvest. Plants were harvested to monitor the root and shoot growth throughout the production period at 9 weeks and 17 weeks after transplantation.

RESULTS

Shoot and root dry weight of Purple coneflower was significantly greater at 9 weeks for the plants with mycorrhizae. The Allegheny spurge had a growth pattern similar to the purple coneflower. Growth parameters measured at both 9 and 17 weeks of growth indicated that both shoot and root weights were significantly higher with mycorrhizae.

