

# SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO CUSTOMERS

## **Broadleaf Root Dip**

The responses provided the following information, summarised below.

1. 96% of respondents found the product easy to use in both 'on site' and 'off site' situations.
2. The gel was found by 84% of users to stay on the roots satisfactorily, and when combined with placing roots in plastic bags, even if some of the gel came off the roots in transit, it was still retained in the root zone and maintained a moist 'micro-climate' to counteract root desiccation.
3. Also, 78% reported a satisfactory amount of gel still on the roots at planting time. 88% felt there was no need to re-hydrate the gel or re-dip prior to planting.
4. With all the water that the gel held around the roots, 93% felt that their bare root material was well protected while out of the soil.
5. Additionally, 65% stated they were able to carry on planting bare-root stock with Broadleaf Root Dip after the traditional bare-root season was over and 46% said that they had made major savings by eliminating the need to switch to container grown stock for late planting.

**The comments below are just a few of those we received and illustrate the benefits of Broadleaf Root Dip in a wide range of applications and conditions.**

"Without Broadleaf Root Dip we might as well not have bothered planting. The reasons are (1) we were late - mid April to early May starting planting (2) the plants were in or nearly in full leaf (3) the soil was dry. No rain came for 3 weeks after planting and yet dipped stock started to grow! The conditions were scorching sun.

"A block of *Prunus avium* 0+1 planted under similar conditions without Broadleaf Root Dip failed. Another block of *Betula pendula* 25cm 0+1 with Broadleaf Dip leafed up and began growing. They are currently smothered by weeds but have doubled in size. We even root-dipped cotoneasters and planted them out with no losses in spite of the lack of rain. Without Broadleaf this year we would certainly have had to irrigate and this is not catered for in our field sites."

*"We feel that the survival rate of our planting has been increased by 3% which has meant that it is self-financing."*

"Where sites require extensive setting out or where drying winds were a problem the roots stayed wetter longer.

"Using Broadleaf Root Dip, results were approximately 80% success compared with 40-50% the previous (wet) year without."

*"In the last planting season we treated some 50,000 plants with Broadleaf Root Dip. In the coming season we are asking all our U.K. suppliers to Root Dip before dispatch to us. There is strong visual evidence that the tree roots stay moist when exposed to open air for any length of time. In our business I believe this period to be the most critical in the survival of plants."*

*"The cost of Broadleaf Root Dip is negligible compared with the cost of stock when one considers (a) the purchase price of a tree (b) the administration and handling costs of a tree prior to dispatch (c) the cost of delivering and planting the tree and (d) the cost of repeating this exercise if the tree dies."*

"It saved about 10,000 whips of mixed species. 95% survived in open ground late planted, 90% survived potted - late planted.

"Pressure of work - bedding plants etc - meant we couldn't plant these whips at the proper time. I think we would have had to burn them. Root Dip saved these plants."

*"Of benefit for the dipping and transportation and storage of trees on site i.e. no loss of moisture between sites, no need to heel in on site, excellent in storage sheds. Also protection from drying winds during planting operations."*

"The planting of 40/60 cm whips as a hedge into poorly prepared ground followed by the strange weather this year should have annihilated the complete row of plants. Instead 70-80% are thriving in an exposed, unshaded, edge-of-field situation.

"Seeing the effect on the above-mentioned hedge and a small plantation of trees, considering this drought and having seen so many other 'cot-deaths' on other plantings I am glad I bothered with the extra expense. It is somewhat cheaper than 100% beating-up! I therefore would like to add my gratitude to any other comments."