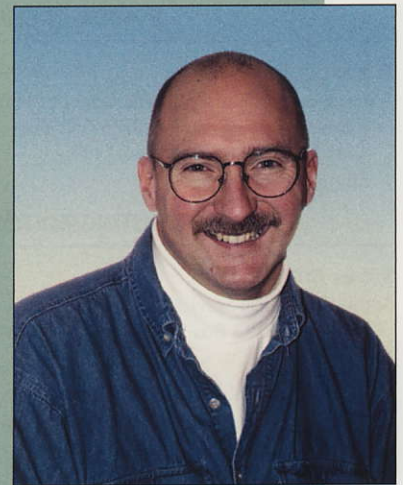


This is a “wet and wild” issue. Wet because the issue contains a number of articles dealing with riparian plants. You’ll find articles dealing with freshwater ecosystems, salt water marshes, propagation of a variety of plants, constructed wetlands, bioengineering treatments, and some ethnobotany as well. Just for fun, I threw in an article dealing with the complete opposite—establishing plants where normal precipitation is only about 2 cm (1 in).

This is a wild issue because we also have a few articles discussing the question: “What is a native and is it always the best choice for wildland plantings?” At my nursery, our venerable nursery technician, when wanting to discuss some aspect of nursery culture, starts off by saying, “Let me argue with you....” Although he uses the word “argue,” our discussions are never arguments because we both have the same objective in mind: produce quality seedlings as efficiently as possible. Do we as growers and planters of native plants have a singular, similar, ultimate objective? Perhaps in the broadest sense we do, but I’ve discovered that growers, users, and lovers of native plants are a diverse crowd with passionate views about what they do and what native means to them. Some of us would never use herbicides to establish native plants, or plant a cultivar, or even use seeds collected more than 30 m (100 ft) from the target planting site, while others have no problem drilling in a grass cultivar developed in another state and spraying herbicides over the top to control weeds during establishment. Is one right and one wrong? Our diversity stems from the immense variety of situations in which we need native plants and the function of native plant ecosystems. So please read the points of view expressed and then “argue” about it with yourself, coworkers, peers, and customers. And if you have a different point of view, send me a manuscript! I believe this topic is paramount to what we do (or don’t do) and deserves to be repeatedly, passionately, and logically discussed.

* The Native Plant Network propagation database is continuing to grow. Feel free to sort through the database for techniques on growing particular species. And please consider entering a few protocols as well. It’s easy to do and you can upload your nursery logo for some free advertising as well. URL: <http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu>.

If you enjoy *Native Plants Journal*, please tell your friends and colleagues to subscribe. Subscriptions are steadily arriving, but we still have a ways to go to before the journal is self-sufficient. My personal thanks to the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry and Ducks Unlimited Canada for their generous support during the initiation of this journal, and to the USDI National Park Service for their support of the Native Plant Network.



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