



Figure 1. Witches'-broom plantings at the University of Connecticut

Specialists in plant propagation, production and cultivation can look forward to accessing over 50 years of IPPS proceedings via the internet.

A GREEN REVOLUTION

by Simon Bates,
Project Manager

The DDC Group—selected by The International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS) to digitize its historical proceedings for publication on the internet.

The International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS), founded in 1951, has been publishing annually the combined proceedings of its international regions in hardback volumes, some of which are now down to their last known copy. The learned articles making up these volumes will in the near future become available in PDF format—the result of a scanning and indexing project being run in collaboration with the DDC Group, and with the support of the International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS), whose *Acta Horticulturae* volumes were also digitized by DDC.

International Editor, Charles W. Heuser Jr., got in touch with DDC on the recommendation of Peter Vanderborcht of the ISHS. It was agreed that DDC should digitize the IPPS books in like manner, enabling the ISHS to put them online using the structure of their well-established site.

DDC's Atlanta and Philippines operations are combining to execute this work. A test on a single volume has already been signed off by IPPS and live work is under way.

Tammie Schell of the Atlanta team sourced a specialist bookbinder in the United States to de-bind the hardback volumes, garnered by Charles from their owners and shipped together to DDC. No guillotining here! The pages have been detached from the glue and stitches by hand and will be expertly re-bound later before being returned.

The separated pages are being imaged in Atlanta. Post-processing of the TIFFs means that each page is squared up with a clean white margin—no sign of the bound edge.

A further detail of the process—not all graphics are satisfactory in bitonal TIFF. IPPS will select from the TIFFs particular pages that DDC will re-scan to greyscale JPEG, which will replace the corresponding TIFFs in the article PDFs.

The Proceedings

- 56 volumes—49 supplied as hardback books and 7 as PDF files.
- 32,000 scanned pages.
- 6,700 articles.
- 7.6 million index characters.

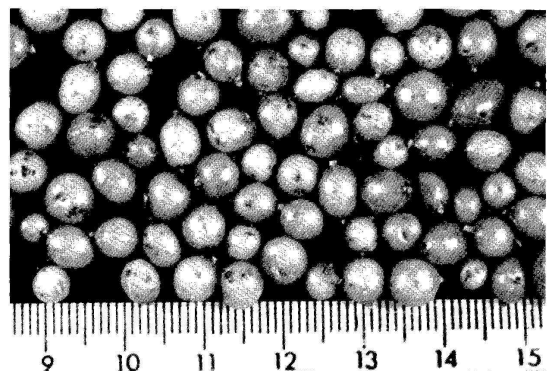


Figure 3. Potato microtubers produced in a bioreactor culture system.

This project typifies DDC's approach. The requirement is unique, so we design the project to fit the requirement—the client gets what they want and not a compromise solution.

What happens next is down to the team in the Philippines, receiving the images via FTP. Each article will be indexed with four fields: title, author, abstract and page number. HTML tags and entity references will be added so that index text will be properly rendered when viewed in a browser. With content of research value, character accuracy is important. DDC is using a triple-pass entry and compare method to guarantee index data with fewer than 1 character errors in 20,000.

The TIFFs of each article will be collected, converted to PDF as individual articles then linked to the index data through common file naming.

DDC's Service Benefits for IPPS

- Off-shore data capture costs.
- On-shore project management.
- Bespoke instruction manual.
- Fully co-ordinated multi-skill project.

The service requires the most recent articles to be created from volumes supplied already in PDF format, a process that will be done entirely in the Philippines, resulting in the same set of deliverables.

So much material is now online that it is easy to think of the process of internet publication as a walk in the park. When dealing with historical material, that is plainly not so. DDC is proud to be supporting the IPPS in its initiative and to be able to co-ordinate the skills and resources to make this particular green revolution happen.

Cultivate your readership with the DDC Group.



The DDC Group