

## Cutting Team Heroes

On a cold and rainy Tuesday morning, Devi, Lou, and Pat walked  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from their cars to the DSC designated greenhouse. First of all it was dry inside; the broken windows have been repaired. Secondly, it was warm; heating coils lined the lengths of the sliding tables. Thirdly, EVERYTHING was organized.



All the tubers were arrayed in Styrofoam boxes; all AA's in one, A's in another. Small pot roots and a few large pots with roots luxuriate on heated coils on the next table over. Even within the BB, Min home bases, the individual cultivars are not only labeled but color-coded. If it's blue it's BB.





**Lou sets up 10 flats with 16 each 4"x4" new containers. He fills each with a special potting mix to encourage root production. He wets them down. He really wets them down. Whilst Lou sets up production, Devi waters the rooted cuttings, some of which have been growing since early January.**



**Meanwhile, Patricia debouches her huge bags full of designators. At home in the evenings, Pat pastes labels on various colored tabs, depositing AA's in one cup, stellars in another—all with the full cultivar name and ADS # and designations. "It takes hours!" she exclaims. Pat begins by laying out the AA's in alphabetical order.**





Lou begins slicing off sprouts. He calls out, “Two Nick Sr.” Pat immediately pulls 2 Nick Sr. tags and pencils the day’s date and hands the tags to Devi. Devi has doweled holes in each of the 160 containers. She inserts Pat’s two labels. She takes the sprigs from Lou, slices off the lower leaves and excess upper leafage; Devi inserts Lou’s snippets and tamps the soil around them. What a well oiled machine! Lou utilizes several blades, changing between cuts and dipping the old blades in Clorox afterwards. Pat keeps a ledger of which cuttings have been made so that Devi can update the XL sheet each evening.



In a twinkling, all 160 containers are embedded with new plants. Lou and Devi heft them onto a roller and cart them into the misting room where they will sit for a few weeks. The combination of warm bottom heat, warm sunlight from above and occasional fine mist promotes rapid root development.





**Devi reports that they have more varieties than ever before –almost 200. Not all have sprouted, but rumor has it that it might warm up soon. Amongst the too cool to drool for cultivars are Hollyhill Exotica, Porcelain, For Robin, Skip to My Lou, many Tahoma, Clearview Cameron, Bunches of Boomquists, including Candy Corn, 7 different poms, and the latest Edens: Louise, Benary, and the NEW Maratisch! Both KA’s Cloud and KA’s Kalisse are being encouraged to send up green shoots. “AA’s just sprout when they’re ready,”**

says Lou shaking his head. Already our DSC Cutting Team has almost 900 GREAT plants. Wow!

Devi and Pat hope to bring a bunch of the first wave of wonderful cuttings to our Tuesday, March 12 meeting. You snooze, you lose.



Please take time to let Devorah, Pat and Lou know how much you appreciate all their volunteered time over so many months to produce such fine products for our Tuber Sale April 27. There are a couple early cuttings which have been transferred to gallon pots which have blooms on them already! Lou disbudded for the first time this year. Ah, the season begins anew.