



Soilless culture of hardy nursery stock

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Introduction

The Dutch government needs to comply with European environmental legislation on the quality of ground- and surface water. Nurserymen want to produce high quality products at a competitive price. The challenge for Applied Plant Research is combining these targets.

Aim

Development of new sustainable cultivation systems for hardy nursery stock with minimal emission.

Results

Gutter system

Advantages: better growth, less emission, improved labour conditions, efficient water and nutrient use

Disadvantages: investment costs, environmental planning
The gutter system has proved to reduce emission substantially and to be economically sound. Five growers have invested in this system.



Avenue trees in big containers

Advantages: better growth, less emission, flexible harvesting

Disadvantages: not suitable for every species, environmental planning

Growing trees in big containers is rapidly adopted by growers.



Pot-in-pot

Advantages: better growth, easy harvesting, efficient water and nutrient use, plant do not topple

Disadvantages: suitable for plants up to 2 m length, investment costs

The pot-in-pot system is just installed and this season the research will start. The grower is confident that he will recover soon the costs on his investment.

