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Propagators' Quarterly

Articles & Information for Growers



Ease Your Labor Woes



Back in 1999, when we first began producing Ellepots, we did not realize how important the labor-saving benefit of Ellepots by A.M.A. would become. Today, every business has a labor story to tell. We have our own here at A.M.A., with help being in short supply, both skilled and unskilled. One solution for us will be the installation of our eleventh Ellepot machine this summer, a fully automated EPM that will double our production with half the people of a manual machine.

This will be our fifth fully automated machine.



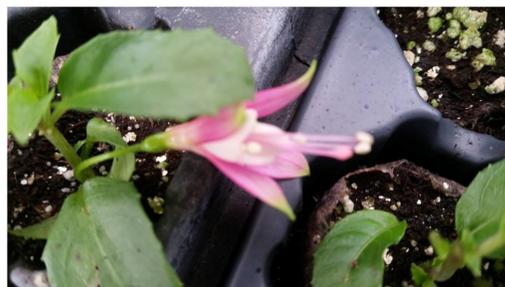
More importantly, A.M.A. can produce enough Ellepots to help you ease your labor issues. Ellepots by A.M.A. reduce your labor requirements. It's a big deal. It starts on the arrival of the Ellepots; in the tray of your choice, when you need them, and ready to use. There are no boxes to open, unpack, and dispose of unless you want them boxed. Sticking cuttings, sowing seeds, or transplanting from tissue culture is easy. Once you get to the propagation bench or floor, you could find a significantly reduced time looking after your crop, depending on the species and growing

conditions. Our favorite example is in poinsettias, where growers don't have to babysit their cuttings after sticking.

When plants root in faster and stronger, there's less time spent looking after them before transplant. Every day that gets knocked off the propagation cycle is a labor saver. In some crops, this will be negligible, but in others, it could be weeks.

The sorting and grading stage with Ellepots by A.M.A. lead to less grading. This is because higher take rates and nice and even crops could mean less time in sorting and grading, resulting in the transplant arriving sooner. Transplanting becomes faster and easier, simply because there's less sorting and grading to do.

Now, you're ready for transplant to a field or pot. This job becomes less labor-intensive because Ellepots by A.M.A. are easy to dislodge and the root ball doesn't fall apart, even if you have to sneak in the transplant a few days earlier than you'd normally like. It is easier to transplant a healthy, well-rooted plant than one that is a little bit weak and not so well-rooted.



So, there you have it. You are bound to save time in at least one of these four

areas of propagation and maybe in all four. Labor savings have consistently been one of the BIG reasons that growers have made the switch to Ellepots by A.M.A. over the last 22 years.

SOLUTION SHOWCASE



Need to space your crop? We have trays to make it easy.

For crops like geraniums or poinsettias that need space for their developing canopy, we have trays that allow single, double, or triple row spacing, like our 3 X 26 Strip Tray or our 5 X 10 Strip Tray. Single-row trays come with a carrier. All that you have to do is pull out every other strip. We can send enough empty carriers to allow for spacing. Double or triple row strips are self-supporting, with no carrier needed.

Here are the strip tray options:

- 25mm – 2 X 51; 3 X 34; 7 X 15*
- 30mm – 2 X 36*; 6 X 12*; 3 X 26; 3 X 26T*; 6 X 13; 8 X 13*
- 35mm – 5 X 10
- 40mm – 3 X 17*; 2 X 16T; 2 X 18*

*Note: Not all trays are readily available. Some may require longer lead times.



Are You an Organic Grower?



For a long time, A.M.A. pushed to bring a fully organic Ellepot to market for our growers.



We've had our A.M.A. Organic Ellepot Mix certified for use in organic agriculture for several years, but getting the paper was not so easy. Last year, that option became a reality with the introduction of Ellepot's Organic 2.0 Paper.

Ellepot Organic 2.0 paper consists of 100% fully compostable and biodegradable materials. The new, patented technology is the result of six years of intense product development. This process ensures environmental compliance at every stage of the paper's life cycle, including material selection, handling, testing, and degradation. The paper is 100% PET-free and contains no oil-based materials.

Ellepot Organic 2.0 paper is based on natural

and raw materials from FSC-certified forests and other controlled and renewable resources in northern Scandinavia. The FSC certificate is our, and your, guarantee for sustainable forest management and replanting of the materials used for this product.

Growers will need to have their own certifier approve the use of Ellepots produced with our mix and this new paper. We can supply the support materials to make it easy. We have growers in Canada and the USA regularly using Ellepots by A.M.A. in their organic production.

This paper begins to degrade in 4 – 6 weeks and is usually decomposed in 8 weeks. We recommend this paper for use where propagation time is short. Our Ellepot trays let the air circulation pass freely around and through the substrate. It is also recommended not to keep the Ellepots in an all-wet environment until plant out.

Currently, we offer Ellepots by A.M.A. for use in organic agriculture and horticulture in these diameters*:

- 21.5mm
- 25mm
- 35mm
- 45mm
- 60mm



*We hope to add 50mm later this year.

These sizes make the propagation of organic crops much more efficient, along with the other benefits provided by Ellepots by A.M.A. If you are a grower of vegetables, fruits, leafy greens, medicinal crops, or herbs, take a look. If you are a garden center grower marketing towards a greener, more sustainable world, these Ellepots offer the extra benefit of reducing and/or eliminating plastic pots.

Propagators' Quarterly is published by the team at A.M.A. Horticulture.

Looking for propagation solutions? Visit amahort.com and see our solutions, including Ellepots by A.M.A., the RootSmart Propagation System, plug trays, substrates, containers and more. Our team of experts is here to help you find the best solutions for your unique growing goals. Let's get started today.



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