### Tips & Tricks

**Thuja occidentalis ‘Brabant’**

- The quality of the plants is heavily influenced by the starting material you use. For the right plant design in later stages, we recommend using apex cuttings. It is important that the foot of the cuttings shows wood (not green), to ensure good callus formation.
- tart with high quality young plants: healthy roots, uniformity in design, and good branching.
- Be aware that this crop is mainly propagated using cuttings during the ‘dark’ months of the year. Cuttings require lower soil temperatures (Dec-Jan 14-15°C | Feb 16°C | March 17°C). In higher temperatures callus production can be limited.
- As opposed to other Thuja occidentalis cultivars (like ‘Smaragd’), Thuja occidentalis ‘Brabant’ is a massive grower and has high nutritional needs.
- After starting with high quality young plants, Thuja occidentalis ‘Brabant’ is not an extremely difficult culture. General recommendations:
  - Ensure the growing medium in the pots is constantly moist.
  - Apply balanced nutrition during every crop stage for healthier plants.
  - Two weeks and one week before transplanting: apply Peters Professional Plant Starter (10-52-10) to stimulate roots.
- Thuja occidentalis ‘Brabant’ is sensitive to specific insects and diseases, but with the appropriate crop protection applications these can be cured. Continuous levels of good nutrition are important to avoid stress and illnesses.

### Crop Protection

**Thuja occidentalis ‘Brabant’**

- **Sciara**
  - Can occur during the cutting period, especially because this crop takes a few months to root. The quicker roots are developed, the less problems.
- **Wine Weevil (Othisrhynchus sulcatus):**
  - Take preventive actions to avoid larvae in the pot.
- **Twig diseases (Pestalotia):**
  - Take preventive actions during the entire culture (chemical, but also to avoid stress around pruning periods).
Thuja occidentalis ‘Brabant’

General information for cultivation:
Thuja occidentalis production in pots can be divided in two main branches: a culture that is fully grown in pots and a culture where field-grown Thujas are transferred into pots for the finishing stage. The advice in this crop sheet applies to the pot culture. Total cultivation time from cuttings to sellable plants is 1.5-3 years.

Cultivation cards:
- **Growing medium and water**
  - Thuja occ. ‘Brabant’ requires a soil pH of 5.0 – 5.3.
  - Ensure constant moisture in the growing medium (no excesses). The water should not be too cold; warm up well water.
  - Use a substrate that has good re-wetting and de-watering properties for strong root development.
  - The preferred water source is rainwater or ‘clean’ well water.

- **Starting phase**
  - Potting is recommended in the early spring so plants are deliverable during autumn of the same year.
  - Make sure EC is limited (0.8mS) during root development.
  - Be aware that mobium (Othiorhynchus larvae) can occur during wintertime in pots older than 1 year.

- **Growing phase**
  - Once the plants have rooted successfully, quickly increase the amount of fertilizer in the culture.
  - Plants are mainly grown outdoors, so ensure a good base of Osmocote Exact (Hi.End) is mixed into the growing medium.
  - Main growth happens in late spring and during September – October (November in southern countries). Target EC in the pot in these growth periods should continuously be around 1.5 mS/cm.
  - During summertime (July-August) lower the EC slightly, because Thuja’s growth slows in hotter periods.

- **Length, shape, strength and depth of green color add to the plant’s quality.**
  - Focus nutrition during the finishing stage on a high K schedule (N:K ratio 1:2).
  - Ensure high amounts of magnesium as well via water soluble fertilizers.
  - Thuja grows quickly during cooler periods. Provide sufficient levels of trace elements. We recommend the use of readily available trace element packages (see next page).

- **Finishing phase**
  - Potting: Osmocote Exact Hi.End + CalMag, add 150 g/m3 Micromax Premium for additional trace element supply.
  - Cuttings: 150-200 g/m3 Micromax Premium mixed into the substrate.

- **Final stage | C3 L pot and bigger**
  - Potting: Osmocote Exact Hi.End + CalMag, add 150 g/m3 Micromax Premium for additional trace element supply.
  - Potting: Osmocote Exact Hi.End 8-9 M 4 g/l mixed
  - Osmocote CalMag 3-4 M 1-5 g/l mixed
  - Universol Orange (16-5-25) 5-10 g/m2/week during finishing (August-September).

For a tailored advice for your situation, please contact your ICL Specialty Fertilizers advisor. As circumstances can differ and as application of products is beyond our control, ICL Specialty Fertilizers cannot be held responsible for any negative results. Before a new rate, product or application method is used, a small-scale trial is recommended.
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  - Ensure the growing medium in the pots is constantly moist.
  - Balance the (greenhouse) climate as much as possible for cuttings. Avoid peaks in humidity and temperature (see next item)
  - Apply balanced nutrition during every crop stage for healthier plants.
  - Two weeks and one week before transplanting: apply Peters Professional Plant Starter (10-52-10) to stimulate roots. 

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