

Selected Notes from the Mail Round Robin

Submitted over a period of time by Harry Heineman

August Kehr on rabbit control (printed posthumously)—

The rabbits prompted me to get out my rabbit control spray. The spray is the fungicide Thiram, mixed in water with a sticker chemical that keeps the spray from washing off. I use a material that is a wax emulsion called Vapor Gard, made by the Miller Chemical and Fertilizer Corporation, Box 333, Hanover, PA 17331. Vapor Gard is similar to the natural wax found as natural protectant on most plant parts, including the leaves. Apparently, the rabbits detest the taste of Thiram and in my experience will not touch the treated plants. One treatment in the fall lasts all winter.

John Tobe on *M. grandiflora* and salt—

The coastal dunes [U.S. east coast—Ed.] support healthy *M. grandiflora* that are part of the canopy, or in extreme conditions of wind and salt shearing, they are the groundcover that covers the bare sand. I think that *M. grandiflora* must be the most drought tolerant of our native magnolias. This would be supported by their ability to survive the extreme environment of a coastal dune which offers deep sand as the soil, salt spray, near constant wind, and extremes of wet and drought. Part of the adaptability of the species is its specialized leaf morphology such as its evergreenness, waxy surface, often hairy undersides, and leathery toughness, especially in summer.

Unlike salt damage from road salting and other types of salt contamination in areas that would not normally experience salty soils, I don't think the root zone of the coast scrub plants, such as *M. grandiflora*, are subject to high salt levels because of the leaching effects of high rainfall on the coast. ~

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Editor

Prudence Holliger
PO Box 2043
Issaquah, WA 98027-0091

Webmaster

Donald E. King
dking4@gte.net

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