

Sawmill Wood Waste Evaluation on Junipers and Azaleas for Root Rot Problems

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The cost of growing media is a large component of the total variable cost in nursery production. Because of the ever increasing cost of media, looking at alternative media sources is very important. If Junipers and Azaleas can be grown in the sawmill waste without root rot problems it would be a significant cost savings to the industry.

This research is proposed to assess the use of sawmill wood waste in growing junipers and azaleas. Junipers and some azaleas are known to have problems with root rot when grown in media that is not as well drained as pine bark.

The junipers and azaleas are being grown in 0, 30% and 60% sawmill wood waste media with the corresponding percent being made-up of McCorkle's standard mixture.

The test is being carried conducted over the winter and spring to insure the maximum amount of pressure for the development of root problems.

As of December 1999 no problems have been seen regarding root rot or growth on the junipers or azaleas.