

DAHLIA VIRUS UPDATE

Professor Hanu Pappu reports that Dr. Prabu Gnanasekaran is making progress on the tissue culture work. Inputs from Hanu's contacts in Europe have helped to guide the root development portion of the project. Their ability to multiply clean stock may not be too far in the future. Nick Weber has identified a more traditional approach to that objective. Using leaf cuttings, a colleague of his produces hundreds of plants from just a few tubers each year. We will be testing some of that stock this summer. The responses to the opportunities for clubs to test plants for propagation for clean stock for spring '21 sales and for vendors to test plants for improving their stock have been small. In light of WSU's ongoing laboratory operating limitations for COVID-19 protection, that result is okay. We won't try to increase participation this year.

Ron Miner