

REPORTING AND MONITORING FOR USER RECORDS

T. Tibbitts

Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin, 1575 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706 USA

Carefully documented environmental conditions are essential for the duplication of research studies by oneself and by other researchers. However, it is difficult to document the conditions so that they can be effectively and constantly repeated, even by oneself and especially by others. This problem is complicated by the fact that as research scientists, we do not agree on how thoroughly, and in some cases, what environmental parameters need to be monitored. This has led to the development of guidelines that have been jointly agreed on by concerned scientists and include both the conditions to be monitored and procedures required for this monitoring.

Of initial importance in the development of guidelines, is the assurance that instruments are readily available to make the measurements. Next in importance in guidelines is detailing monitoring procedures that represent the entire growth period of the plant, not just the start of growth. This requirement poses considerable difficulty in minimising the data reporting to meet journal requirements yet accurately documenting the changing levels that affect plant response. Finally the guidelines should, if possible, document conditions to which the separate plants in each experiment are subjected.

The guidelines developed by the North American Controlled Environment Technology and Use Committee will be reviewed and discussed in relation to these needs and concerns.