

Introduction: Session 2: Reporting Guidelines for Controlled Environments

The ASHS through its Working Group on Growth Chambers and Controlled Environments established a set of guidelines for reporting conditions in controlled environments that were first published in 1980. These guidelines have been progressively revised since then.

The objective of this session was to review the guidelines after 20 years and their relevance to users and managers of controlled environment facilities today.

Donald Krizek reviewed reporting and monitoring of controlled environment conditions from the diagnostic point of view. He examined what variables a CE manager should measure to enable diagnosis of good functioning and malfunctioning of the various control systems for light, humidity, temperature, substrate and plant water status. He also examined the question of what variables need to be recorded to facilitate good management and how frequently they have to be monitored and recorded.

Ted Tibbitts reviewed the subject of reporting and monitoring of variables for user records. He examined the question of what variables a user needs to have recorded, and how frequently, to provide a good description of the conditions that plants are exposed to in a controlled environment, the results of which may subsequently be reported in scientific publication.

Lynton Incoll and his colleagues then examined the reporting of guidelines in practice. They posed the question "Given the existence of the ASHS Guidelines for 20 years, does anyone take any notice in practice?"

The panel for the discussion session comprised the three speakers.