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|  | **PROPAGATION OF ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**  Editorial Office, University of Forestry, 10 Kliment Ohridski blvd.,  Sofia 1756, Bulgaria, Fax: (++ 359 2) 862 28 30, e-mail: [ivilievltu@yahoo.com](mailto:ivilievltu@yahoo.com),  [www.journal-pop.org](http://www.journal-pop.org/) |

##### **CHECKLIST FOR REVIEWERS**

**Title of the manuscript:** **EFFECT OF FERTILISATION SCHEDULE DURING PROPAGATION PERIOD OF WITCH-HAZEL (*HAMAMELIS*) ON SUCROSE PROFILE: RELATION WITH HARDENING**

**Author (s):** .... **Gregor Osterc and Franci Štampar**

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# No of the manuscript: ...760......

Deadline for the receiving of your review: 30 days after the receiving of the manuscript

**Please consider main point A and B. Please DO NOT CONTINUE TO REVIEW the manuscript if:**

**- the answer to point A.1 is YES**

**- the answer to point B is LOW.**

**A. Relevance of the paper.**

**1. *Previous publication of the material***

X No

□ Yes. What and where………………………………………………………………...

### B. Scientific and practical importance of the data

□ High

□ Adequate

X Low

### C. Scientific quality

***1. Are the data in this manuscript new?***

X Yes

□ No. Comments:.…………………………………………………………………………

***2. Is the manuscript clearly written and well-organized?***

□ Yes

X No. Comments: I cannot follow the argumentation regarding hardening and in my opinion it should be distinguished between effects of the fertilization on time course and quality of rooting and hardening. For also the term fertilisation schedule is not clear. I see treatments with different fertilizers and no analyses of the nutrient status in the substrate. I see also no close link between the minerals and sucrose concentration in the rooted cuttings………………...........................................................

***3. Are the Abstract and the Key words adequate?***

□ Yes

X No. Suggestions: .....there is no investigation of the fogging system.....................................................

***4. Does the Introduction state the present knowledge and aim of the research?***

□ Yes

X No. Comments: .To general ....................................................................

***5. Materials, methods, and study design***

□Adequate

XImprovement needed. Suggestions: At least explanation for the different sampling dates for rooting and sucrose. And a explanation why for rooting the first sampling was in November …There is no information on temperature and climate during autumn and winter……………………………………………

□Inadequate. Comments: ...........................................!

***6. Results and Discussion***

□Properly drawn with regard to methods and data

□ Should be adjusted – Suggestions: ………………………………………………….

X Insufficiently supported – Comments: There is no explanation for the sucrose found in the shoots and leaves and its influence on rooting because we don’t know when roots are formed. Finally in all treatments we have the same percentage of rooted cuttings and the same root number. There is also no link to the fertilization because the treatments do not differ. There is only a clear time course in the sucrose content independently on the treatments.For overwintering there are no results shown!...............................................

***7. Are the tables , figures titles, and legends presented well and necessary?***

X Yes

□ Improvement needed. Suggestions:……………………………………………………

□ No. Comments: ........................................................................

***8. Data and statistical treatment***

□ Adequate

□ Improvement needed. Comments:……………………………………………………

X Inadequate. Comments: .The sample size seems to be too low because e. g. in the control (Table 1) the control in January has fewer roots than in November....................................................

***9. Have all relevant literature been cited***

□ Yes

X No. Suggestions: ..In my opinion the literature is not really helpful for the discussion of these results.There is no literature on Hamamelis our other difficult to root species. I know about the difficulties to find appropriate literature but maybe a change in the title and focus on the presented results facilitate the discussion.................................................................

**D. Recommendations (after corrections)**

□ The paper should be published as it is now, or with minor editorial changes

□ The paper could be published after minor revision, and need not be re-reviewed

X The paper could be accepted after major revision according to the comments

□ Rejected

#### E. If adjustments or revision is recommended

□ The writer is allowed to contact me

X I want to be anonymous

□ I am not willing to review this paper again

□ I agree to review the manuscript again after the revision

Please add further comments.

I think the results for rooting are very good for Hamamelis but not because of the treatments investigated and the results for surviving plants should be added. Otherwise the title needs to be changed.