

Twixwood Nursery Area Meeting

Twixwood Nursery owner Tom Kimmel graciously hosted an area meeting on December 4th. Tom and staff guided attendees through the production cycle of vinca. They compared plants that had been planted a year ago with some that had been planted in the last 2 months to compare rooting progress and see what the plants look like when they are ready to have cuttings taken. While in the greenhouse he discussed the other crops they grow including pachysandra, euonymus, carex, and other grasses and saw the machine used to divide plants.

In the production room, they saw how vinca cuttings were harvested. At Twixwood they produce two different trays for sale and one in-house tray for next year's cuttings. One of the trays produced has individual pots for garden center customers while the landscapers prefer a solid tray, so the empty containers are easier to keep track of. Each process was slightly different, so attendees saw the differences in production



of each tray. For the in-house trays, the cuttings are planted by the employees at an angle in layers to increase the rooting area. For the tray with individual pots the planting was on a rotary table with the soil in the middle of the table. The process was assembly line style with each worker doing a different part of the process. For the solid trays, the employees would fill the tray and put a handful of cuttings in each cell. Tom explained that when he first started the vinca production was in the summer but shifting it to the winter has helped them retain their staff year-round.

After the Production room the group visited one of Twixwood's other sites there they saw the shipping area and the greenhouses where they were potting up grasses. Following lunch sponsored by Twixwood, Jeff Kurtz of Spring Meadow Nursery gave a talk about the 2026 IPPS International tour and the 2026 Eastern Region annual conference to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan in September. Thank you to Tom Kimmel and the Twixwood staff for an enjoyable and educational day!