

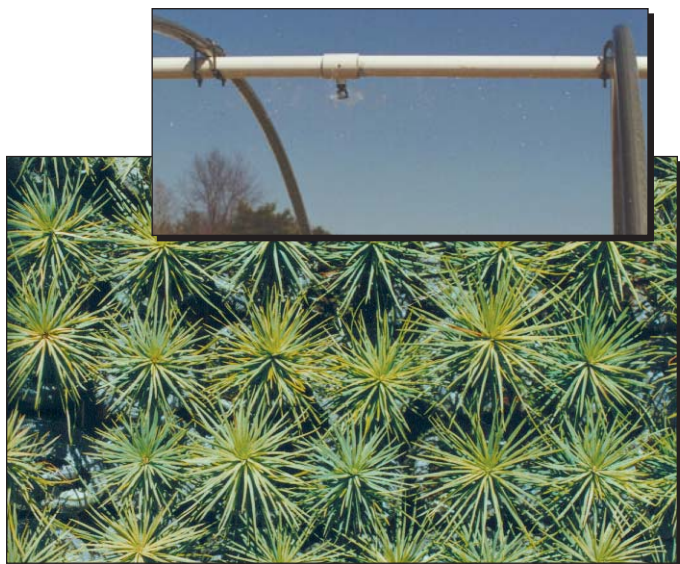
Michigan Grower Discovers the Uniformity Solution



The i-mini-Wobbler® shown above with the Drain-Stop Valve, irrigates 36 mm plugs about 6 ft above the bench in a covered 32-ft quonset-style greenhouse.



i-mini-Wobblers® irrigate evergreens in 42 mm plugs about 6 ft above the crop in an 18-ft cold frame.



At Vans Pines Nursery in Michigan, Gary Van Slooten knows firsthand how critical uniformity is. He's tried many products, but nothing seemed to work for him. Then a local dealer came out and consulted with him about his operation and what he was trying to accomplish. The dealer convinced him to try the Senninger mini-Wobbler. He's been using mini-Wobblers now for about two years. He converted six of his houses to i-mini-Wobblers. He runs two additional houses with upright mini-Wobblers where he irrigates 2 1/2" square liners and one gallon containers.

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Gary Van Slooten

Gary grows forestry crops exclusively from forestry pellets. He's strictly liners, meaning he starts the plants and sells them to growers. That includes about 50 different varieties of conifers and some deciduous crops as well. His cells range in size from 18 mm to 50 mm. Uniformity is consistent across all the sizes. "Last year alone, we grew 800,000 cells of 225 different species all with the mini-Wobbler. You can really see the uniformity reflected in the crop."

He not only prefers the mini-Wobblers to other spray nozzles he's tried, he even prefers them to water booms. "Water booms start at about \$6000 and that doesn't include installation. We had a lot of problems with the booms breaking down. I guess it's because they're mechanical and electrical, there was just a lot that could go wrong. I like the mini-Wobbler because it's easy to use and it makes irrigation so much quicker."

Gary also applies fertilizer during irrigation. Because the mini-Wobbler is constructed entirely of engineering-grade thermoplastics, it can withstand most harsh chemicals. That translates to reliability. Because they use well water and to help prevent any debris from clogging of small nozzles, Gary employs standard line screens. He says he "probably doesn't need to, it's just a good idea."

Vans Pines Nursery in Michigan, is a third generation family-run business. Gary's grandparents started the company back in 1934. In fact, they just recently converted the old farmhouse into their office space. The nursery now encompasses about 250 acres. One of the advantages of their heritage is their seed orchard. Over their almost 70 years, they've developed what they call "genetically superior" trees by utilizing seed from their own "home grown" stock.

Gary is obviously proud of the legacy he received and of the business he's grown. His reputation relies on his crop and he knows it.

PHOTOS TAKEN BY TRACY VAN SLOOTEN