

Industry Profile

Thomas' Transplants

A pioneer in plug production forms a new company.

THE name Berl Thomas has become synonymous with transplants. To continue fulfilling the industry demands for seedling technology, Dr. Thomas, former president and CEO of Speedling, Inc. and Twyford International, Inc. has formed a new company, Thomas Seedling Technology Systems, a Division of Berl Thomas and Associates, Inc.

Thomas is a pioneer in plug production and transplanting systems. He started as a researcher developing seedling systems for the Florida Celery Exchange. Over a period of 35 years, Thomas has developed over 100 different crop seedling systems including vegetable, tobacco, and ornamental seedlings.

Raising The Bar

Thomas Seedling Technology Systems will take some of the knowledge Thomas has acquired over the years and provide

global leadership in seedling and agricultural technology for growers worldwide, with a strong emphasis on China. In fact, Thomas has been working with Chinese agriculture for over a decade and has been appointed to the position of Agricultural Advisor to the Yunnan Advisory Mission for Social and Economic Development.

- The new company's activities will center around four projects:
- Seedling technology will be introduced into China and other countries. Thomas was instrumental in building the first seedling production greenhouses in China, and these facilities are producing the broccoli seedlings that are catapulting China into the world broccoli market.
 - Sweet corn will be developed into a major crop in China. Thomas says it will be his objective to introduce new cultivars and production technology.
 - A yearly intelligence report on Chinese floriculture will be produced.
 - New and improved pot flowered gerbera cultivars will be produced for the U.S. and international market through tissue culture and about 40 new varieties will be trialed this spring and expanded in 2004.



Berl Thomas

Photo courtesy of Berl Thomas

For more information, contact Thomas at bmthomas@ix.netcom.com.

AVG