

HORMONES HELP TI ROOTING

While some growers have been using commercially available rooting hormones for propagation of ti cuttings, no information is available on their effectiveness. A trial was conducted to determine if these materials are beneficial for ti propagation.

Three-inch, terminal cuttings of *Cordyline terminalis* 'Nani's Beauty' were used in two groups of 10 cuttings per treatment. After removal of lower leaves, the cuttings were placed in 2- $\frac{3}{4}$ " square plastic pots with a medium of 1 part peat moss and 1 part black cinder and rooted under saran shade. The cuttings were evaluated after 28 days (Table 1).

There was no consistent results in rooting percentage for any treatments. The rooting index values (an index of quantity of rooting) showed no benefit from the use of Hormex rooting powder regardless of concentration. However, treatment with Rootone F resulted in heavier rooting after 28 days compared to the untreated control.

Table 1. The effect of commercial rooting powders on rooting of terminal cuttings of *Cordyline terminalis* 'Nani's Beauty'.

Treatment	Rooting percentage	Rooting index
Control	85	62
Hormex 1	100	65
Hormex 3	85	57
Hormex 8	95	63
Rootone F	100	79

Hormex rooting powders contain Indole-3-butyric acid (IBA) while Rootone F contains mostly Naphthylacetamine (NAA) along with IBA and fungicide. This would suggest that other

formulations containing NAA should be evaluated further for their beneficial effects on rooting of ti cuttings.

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