

Research Briefs



by John G. Seeley

EVALUATION OF APPLICATION METHODS OF ANCYMIDOL AND DAMINOZIDE FOR HEIGHT CONTROL OF CHRYSANTHEMUM

T. A. Nell, G. J. Wilfret and B. K. Harbaugh
(University of Florida)

HortScience 15(6):810-811. 1980.

Royal Trophy and Yellow Mandalay grown with 4 cuttings per 6-inch pot of a 1:1:1 sand:peat:perlite mix with limestone, and nutrients were grown in Florida in spring months of 1978. Granular ancymidol (A-Rest) was incorporated in the mix before planting while spray and drench applications of A-Rest and B-Nine SP were applied when lateral shoots after the pinch were 1¾ to 2 inches long.

Granular ancymidol at 0.5 mg per pot reduced plant height 9% on Yellow Mandalay and 30% on Royal Trophy compared to untreated plants. Foliar applications of B-Nine SP at 5000 ppm with a second application after 10 days reduced height of Yellow Mandalay by 27%, and Royal Trophy by 47%. Plants given a spray of A-Rest to provide 0.5 mg active ingredient per plant were the same height as untreated plants.

With both cultivars, flower number was reduced slightly. Flowering of Yellow Mandalay was delayed a few days by the treatments but Royal Trophy bloomed a day or two sooner. Incorporating granular ancymidol could reduce labor requirement when the influence of environment and cultivar is determined.

DIKEGULAC SODIUM INFLUENCES SHOOT GROWTH OF GREENHOUSE AZALEAS

Lih-Syu Shu and K. C. Sanderson (Auburn University)
HortScience 15(6):813-814. 1980.

Foliar sprays of 0.5% dikegulac sodium (ATRINAL) applied to Kingfisher, Alaska, Dorothy Gish and Red Wing azaleas 11 days after shearing, decreased shoot length and increased shoot number with more shoots originating along the entire stem at lower node positions than on untreated plants. Three to four weeks after treatment newly developing leaves of treated plants exhibited necrotic leaf tip and chlorosis but the chlorosis disappeared in 6 to 8 weeks. Five to six weeks later, shoot length increased normally indicating that the growth regulator did not have a long-term depressive effect on azalea shoot growth and development. The Atrinal spray produced dense, compact, well-shaped plants.

POTTED ROSES CAN BE AVAILABLE ALL YEAR

W. E. Healy (University of Minnesota)
Minnesota St. Flor. Bulletin 29(6):5-6, 1980.

This article outlines techniques for production of potted roses from grafted plants, rooted cutting plants, and a scheme for storing cuttings for later forcing. Some of the techniques are based on methods developed by Roar Moe of Norway.

LOWERING ROSE GREENHOUSE TEMPERATURES MAY BE FALSE ECONOMY

Thomas G. Byrne (University of California)
Flower and Nursery Report
for Commercial Growers, Fall, 1980.

As a fuel economy measure, many growers have reduced night minimum temperatures a few degrees below their usual setting. In a winter of 1979-80 experiment at San Jose, California, this practice reduced gas bills significantly; however, with roses, net income may be reduced appreciably by delaying the harvest past a peak market period.

In studying a crop for Valentine's Day, Cara Mia roses grown at 60°F minimum night temperature were compared with those at 56°. There was not a significant difference in the number of blooms per square foot and the average number of days to harvest was only about 4½ days greater for the cooler crop. There was a calculated saving in heat because of the 21.4 cents/square foot at 60° compared to 12.8 cents for 56°. But there was an important delaying effect on number of flowers for the holiday market. Ninety percent of the 60° crop was harvested by February 10, the planned market cut-off date, but less than 20% of the cooler crop was ready for harvest. In addition, the normal spring cropping schedule was delayed appreciably with the 56° temperature. The winter of 1979-80 was mild in California; in a normally colder winter, the delaying effect of 56° probably would be greater because this minimum temperature would be reached earlier in the night.

(For additional information on effects of adjusting night temperatures on growth of greenhouse roses, read the article by J. W. Boodley and J. G. Seeley in New York State Flower Grower Bulletin 177, September 1960.)

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