

Charles Lewis - Reporter

A general discussion on African violet propagation led to the conclusion that vermiculite with constant water level and heating coils was the best media for rooting the cuttings. If plants were to be left in the media for a length of time after they had rooted, ammonium sulfate should be applied. Steam was considered the best sterilizing agent for vermiculite.

Doctor Blauvelt brought out that the active ingredient in the majority of snail baits is methaldehyde which paralyzes the snails when they contact it. If the following day is a warm one, the paralyzed snails will be killed; but if it is cool, then they may recover. He also pointed out that the effective concentration of the methaldehyde in the bait should be 10% and that lately the amount has fallen below that. By adding methaldehyde to present baits the percentage may be increased. The material is available from the Niacet Chemical Corporation, Niagara Falls, New York.

Doctor Blauvelt said that the systemic poison, Systox, will be available in limited amounts and restated that it is most effective if applied before the plants become infested. It is highly effective against cyclamen mite.

Doctor C. Sherwood pointed out that by using the geraniums that didn't bloom for Decoration Day for propagation, the grower will be selecting for a later blooming plant. It is better to save some plants that bloomed well for Decoration Day to use as stock plants.

Doctor Stuart has found that high nitrate levels are helpful in reducing the tip burn of Croft lilies.

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Struckmeyer and Roberts, of Wisconsin, have shown that exposure to low temperature followed by high temperature causes plants to produce vegetative breaks and replaces pinching.