SURFACTANT RESPONSE WITH SADH AND ANCYMIDOL

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When a temporary shortage of SADH (B-Nine) occurred this year, ancymidol (A-Rest) was used instead. The cost of treatment was greater. In order to reduce the cost of A-Rest, experiments were conducted using a special surfactant (Regulaid) with a lower concentration of A-Rest. A lower concentration of A-Rest was as effective as the normal concentration without Regulaid.

	% Growth Reduction Compared to Control	
	Marigold	Zinnia
Control	0	0
Regulaid	-1	4
Ancymidol	27	22
1/2 Ancymidol + Regulaid	48	17
SADH	16	46
1/2 SADH + Regulaid	17	48

Half rates of A-Rest and B-Nine were used with Regulaid. In three out of four cases, the 1/2 rate with Regulaid reduced growth more than the full-strength application. When zinnias and marigolds were averaged, both 1/2 A-Rest with Regulaid and 1/2 B-Nine with Regulaid reduced growth by 32% as compared with 24% for A-Rest and 31% for B-Nine.

It should be noted that Regulaid itself is not a growth regulator but a surfactant. When Regulaid was applied by itself to plants, there was no reduction in growth.

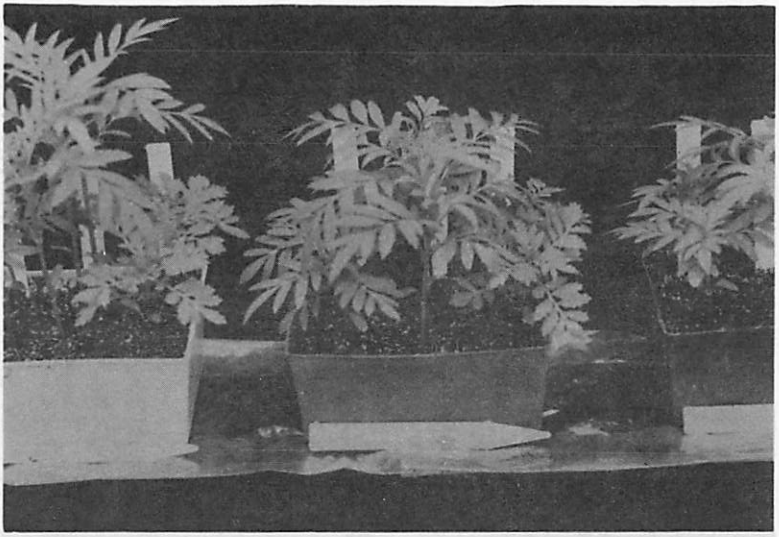

Figure 1. Marigolds treated with A-Rest (center) at 50 ppm and (right) 25 ppm plus Regulaid at 1:267. The control in on the left.

The cost of A-Rest, even at half the rate, with Regulaid does not warrant using A-Rest over B-Nine. Furthermore, B-Nine activity is enhanced by Regulaid in a similar fashion even though neither product label suggests the use of additional surfactant.

This experiment, which was conducted in July, only involved marigolds and zinnias. The reduction in growth, however, is significant enough to consider using Regulaid to cut down on growth regulator costs.