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Please read
This is your last Bulletin

P. Allen Hammer
The Effect of B-Nine SP on the Height of Lisianthus

P. Allen Hammer and Cheryl Fultz

Lisianthus has received a great deal of attention as a new pot plant and cut flower in the last several years (1,2,3,4). We conducted the following study in 1984 to evaluate its potential as a pot plant in Indiana. We grew a white, blue, and pink Lisianthus (Eustoma) from seed. They were seeded on January 30 under mist with a constant 72°F day/night temperature. The pink cultivar was slower to germinate and grow than the white or blue. The blue and white cultivars were transplanted to 48 cell packs on March 14 and the pink cultivar on March 27. They were grown under natural photoperiods at 65°F night and 70-75°F day. A constant 200 ppm N & K fertilizer program was used. At transplanting the seedlings had 1 pair of leaves. Three plants were transplanted to a 6-inch azalea pot on May 1 (blue), May 7 (white), and May 8 (pink). They were pinched at potting leaving 3 nodes or leaf pair/plant. The plants were sprayed with 0, 5000, 7500, or 10000 ppm B-Nine SP on May 22 (blue), May 31 (white), or June 5 (pink) when the new growth had started to elongate. Treatments were replicated (1 pot/replicate) 10 times for blue and white and 7 times for pink.

The average weeks from seeding to flower was 26-28 weeks (Table 1). The number of flowers per pot averaged between 12 and 16 or 4 to 5 flowers per pinched plant (Table 2). B-Nine SP was extremely effective in reducing plant height (Table 3, Fig. 1).

Summary

The Lisianthus cultivars we tested have limited potential as a pot plant. While B-Nine SP is very effective in reducing plant height, the display of flowers per pot is limited. The plant is extremely slow from seed. We do believe the plant has potential as a cut flower grown from cutting. The longevity of Lisianthus vase life as well as its unique flower form have started to appeal to the retail florist and consumer. The future of Lisianthus looks good!

1 Associate Professor and Research Technician

Literature Cited


Table 1. Average days to flower for blue, white, and pink Lisianthus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cultivar</th>
<th>from seeding</th>
<th>from transplant to flat</th>
<th>from transplant to 6-inch pot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>179 (26)</td>
<td>137 (20)</td>
<td>88 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white</td>
<td>190 (27)</td>
<td>148 (21)</td>
<td>92 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pink</td>
<td>195 (28)</td>
<td>139 (20)</td>
<td>83 (12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Average number of open flowers and flower buds per 6-inch pot of blue, white, and pink Lisianthus. Three pinched plants per pot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cultivar</th>
<th>open flowers</th>
<th>buds</th>
<th>total flowers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pink</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>13</td>
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</table>

Table 3. Height of blue, white, and pink Lisianthus treated with B-Nine SP as a percentage of the control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cultivar</th>
<th>5000 ppm B-Nine SP</th>
<th>7500 ppm B-Nine SP</th>
<th>10000 ppm B-Nine SP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td>74% (26)</td>
<td>61% (39)</td>
<td>53% (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white</td>
<td>64% (36)</td>
<td>63% (37)</td>
<td>62% (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pink</td>
<td>50% (50)</td>
<td>50% (50)</td>
<td>43% (57)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. Height of blue, white, and pink Lisiarthus as affected by application of B-Nine SP.

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All-America Selections
New for 1986

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Sweet Corn F₁
'How Sweet It Is (White)'

Cosmos 'Sunny Red'

Okra 'Blondy'