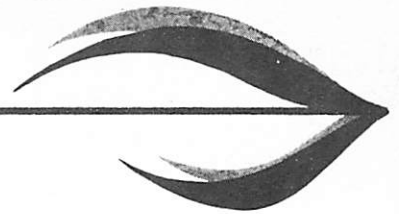




FLOWER AND NURSERY REPORT

FOR COMMERCIAL GROWERS



A-REST® AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR B-NINE® IN POT CHRYSANTHEMUM HEIGHT CONTROL

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During the spring of 1975, B-Nine® and Alar® supplies became short, causing great concern among pot chrysanthemum producers. Several tests were conducted at the McCahon & Dahlen Nursery, Half Moon Bay, with dilute A-Rest® foliage sprays as a substitute for the usual B-Nine® treatment used by this grower. Our previous tests had shown that fairly high concentrations of A-Rest® (100 ppm) foliar sprays are needed to produce satisfactory height control; the high cost of A-Rest® made the treatments prohibitive. Tests on the East Coast indicated that A-Rest® foliar sprays could be used effectively in concentrations as low as 25 ppm if the treatments were timed properly.

Five rooted cuttings each of the varieties 'Dramatic,' 'Festival,' 'Marguerita,' and 'Puritan' were planted in a 6-inch pot and allowed to become established for approximately 1 week. At that time (May 22, 1975) the plants were pinched,

sprayed with 25 ppm A-Rest® solution, and placed under long-day conditions for 10 days. Short-day treatments were begun June 1. Half of the plants were given a second application 2 weeks after the first. Check plants were pinched and subjected to the same day-length treatments as the A-Rest®-treated plants. B-Nine® (2,350 ppm) foliar sprays were applied 4 and 6 weeks after potting. Measurements made July 10 are shown in the table. Heights are expressed as the distance from the pot rim to the top of the tallest plant.

It is apparent from the results that neither the single nor double applications of 25 ppm A-Rest® foliar sprays did an adequate job. Further tests using 25 ppm A-Rest® foliar sprays at the time of the pinch and again 2 weeks later were unsuccessful, even though short-day treatments were started the same day as the pinch and initial sprays were made. Growth patterns were similar to those shown in the table. It is obvious from our tests that low-dose A-Rest® foliar sprays did not control pot mum height as reported on the East Coast.

AVERAGE TALLEST PLANT HEIGHT AT MATURITY

Pot mum variety	B-Nine® check	One application	Two applications
		A-Rest® 25 ppm	A-Rest® 25 ppm
inches			
Festival	13.7	17.7	19.1
Marguerita	17.0	27.0	27.6
Puritan	14.6	17.1	16.1
Dramatic	18.6	27.5	27.1

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