

# Chemical Disbudding of Chrysanthemums

As a result of recent experiments at Cornell University, Dr. Anton M. Kofranek and Dr. Leszek Markiewicz report that some commercially available chemicals are effective in disbudding of selected chrysanthemum varieties. Of eight compounds tried, they found that only three materials were very selective in killing the laterals without apparent injury to the terminal flower buds or leaves near them. These are aromatic compounds closely related to naphthalene. They were used either as a gas or as a solution in low concentration sprayed on the plants. Various concentrations of these three compounds are now being investigated to determine the optimum rates and a more convenient method of application.

Dr. Kofranek had been working on this problem with his graduate student, Richard A. Criley, at UCLA before coming to Cornell. They tried materials commonly used as carriers for emulsifiable insecticides such as the xylenes, kerosenes and aromatic naphthas. Because of the complex nature of these materials, the lateral bud kill was not accomplished consistently. Dr. Kofranek and Mr. Criley did find, however, that the most effective time to spray the plants was between the 12th and 24th short days for the Shoemith and Princess Anne varieties.

Dr. Kofranek has been on sabbatical leave at the Department of Floriculture, Cornell University since September 1966. Dr. Markiewicz is a Research Associate from the University of Krakow, Poland. He has been in the Department since July 1965 studying new floriculture methods in the United States and conducting research.

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