CYTOKININS FOR INCREASING BRANCHING

Shell Development Company of Modesto, California reported a new synthetic cytokinin, SD 8339, at the American Society for Horticultural Science Meetings at Kansas State University in August. This chemical has been found to modify the growth of floricultural crops by stimulating the development of lateral buds. It may increase the number of lateral buds produced after pinching or it may even substitute for pinching on some plants. E. K. Jackson and J. C. Lingle of the Shell company reported that plants responding with increased branching included poinsettias, roses, chrysanthemums, petunias, azaleas, carnations, and geraniums. Applications of this material have been most effective when used as a spray.

Jack May of the Shell Company has supplied us with some of this new chemical for testing on carnations and other plants. If preliminary tests are positive, we will attempt to find profitable uses for SD 8339 in carnation culture.

Your editor,

W D Holley

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