

# Growth Regulators on Bedding Plants

by G. Douglas Crater, Extension Horticulturist, UGA

Have your bedding plants been too tall in past seasons? If so, have you been using a growth retardant or the right kind of retardant? Growth retardants not only hold down height, they also encourage branching and bushiness. Therefore, growth retardants provide for better quality plants if used properly.

There are three growth retardants that are commonly used by most greenhouse operations. These are (1) Cycocel, (2) B-Nine (Alar) and (3) A-Rest. There are a few others that are on the market, but these are more commonly used by the bedding plant grower.

Now, which growth retardant should you use on which crop? One of these does not work for all crops. Usually you need two and sometimes all three growth retardants to do a good job of retarding plant growth on all of your plants.

Let's look at each of these growth retardants and see which plants they should be used on. The following charts should be used as guides and remember to follow label directions as to the amount to use.

## Chart 1—Bedding Plants Responding to Cycocel

Cleome	Geranium	Verbena
Dahlia	Marigold (African)	
Dianthus	Salvia	

## Chart 2—Bedding Plants Responding to B-Nine

Ageratum	Geranium	Verbena
Aster	Impatiens	Zinnia
Browallia	Marigold (African)	Lettuce
Calendula	Petunia	Radish
Centauria	Phlox	Tomato
Dahlia	Salvia	

## Chart 3—Bedding Plants Responding to A-Rest

Ageratum	Dahlia	Verbena
Aster	Geranium	Vinca
Browallia	Impatiens	Zinnia
Celosia	Marigold (African)	Lettuce
Centauria	Salvia	Radish
Cleome	Snapdragon	Tomato
Coleus		

## Chart 4—Bedding Plants Responding to Only One Growth Retardant\*

Calendula	—B-Nine	Celosia	—A-Rest
Petunia	—B-Nine	Coleus	—A-Rest
Phlox	—B-Nine	Snapdragon	—A-Rest
Dianthus	—Cycocel	Vinca	—A-Rest

\*Only comparing Cycocel, B-Nine and A-Rest.

UPSTATE  
**NEW YORK**  
**NEW YORK**  
 81  
 DOWNSSTATE

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 1981

**GROSSINGER'S HOTEL**

- TRADE SHOW
  - DESIGN SCHOOL
    - RETAIL AND GROWER TALKS
    - STUDENT DESIGN FAIR
- ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE
  - NIGHT CLUB ENTERTAINMENT
    - GOLF, TENNIS, SWIMMING, ETC.
    - A GREAT WEEKEND!

## NEW YORK STATE FLOWER INDUSTRIES, INC.

### Officers

President ..... (607) 432-3744 Wesley Coddington, Oneonta  
 Vice President ... (516) IV3-6984 John J. Feldis, Jr., Hempstead  
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer .... Ann Reilly, Massapequa Park

### Directors

<b>One Year</b>	<b>Two Years</b>
Martie Buckbee, Syracuse	Wally Hirsch, Glens Falls
Al Dykstra, Spring Valley	Kay McGovern, Brooklyn
Bruce Mrha, Johnstown	Gary Rockwell, Balston Spa

### Three Years

Jeff Slater, Farmingdale  
 Robert Yedowitz, Yonkers  
 George Zerillo, Syracuse

Editor ..... (516) 541-6024 Ann Reilly, Massapequa Park  
 Chairman, Bulletin Committee ..... Wesley Coddington  
 Liaison from Cornell University .... Carl Gortzig and John Seeley  
 (607) 256-2048 (607) 256-2166

Articles may be reprinted without permission provided credit is given to NY State Flower Industries, 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

One Stop Supplies for the  
 Plant & Flower Grower & Garden Center

WRITE FOR OUR LATEST CATALOG

**AL SAFFER & C<sup>o</sup>, INC.**

Pearl & William Streets  
 Port Chester, N.Y. 10573

Tel: (914) 937-6565

### L.I. WAREHOUSE

10 ROBINSON AVENUE  
 EAST PATCHOGUE, NY 11772  
 (516) GR 5-4308

### N.Y.C. OFFICE

106 WEST 28th STREET  
 NEW YORK, NY 10001  
 (212) 675-2249

## Laverack & Haines, Inc.

135 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Executive Park East 890 Seventh North Street  
 Albany, N.Y. 12203 Liverpool, N.Y. 13088

529 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017

Managers of

**WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION GROUP NO. 453**  
 of The State Insurance Fund

Sponsored by the

**NEW YORK STATE FLOWER INDUSTRIES, INC.**

This program provides the members with a substantial savings in their Workers' Compensation cost.