

# Flower Growing & Marketing

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## Floraboard Referendum Ballots Available

Your farm advisor has extra floraboard ballots, if you have not received one directly from the United States Department of Agriculture. Floraboard is the first proposal, ever, to provide a national network of producers and importers to financially support promotion and research for floral products.

The voting period is November 28, 1983 through January 3, 1984. All producers and importers whose 1982 sales of flowers and plants for interior use exceeded \$100,000 are eligible to vote. If you wish a ballot, call Seward Besemer, (619) 565-5379.

## Handling of Geraldton Waxflowers

There are at least two problems with the handling of cut stems of Geraldton Waxflower - flower shattering and botrytis (gray mold fungus) on the flowers. Naturally, both problems are basically due to cold and rainy weather. The flowers get a little old on the bush and botrytis takes over.

Every attempt must be made to harvest only stems with young bright-colored flowers, and not old faded-out stuff. The Israelis have a postharvest procedure to prevent flower shattering and botrytis. It is as follows:

1. Dip bunches of flowers in ice cold water containing 1 1/2 to 3 pounds per 100 gallons of ORNALIN (50WP) and a non-ionic surfactant.
2. Shake off all excess water and dip in a second tank containing a solution of 35 ppm NAA (naphthaleneacetic acid). Allow bunches to dry before shipping.

## Winter Weed Control Around Greenhouses

Preventing weed growth around greenhouses and open areas is a good sanitation practice. Weed growth in these areas serve as host for insects, virus, and potential fire hazards.

*\$ Flower & Waxflower Pathology & Growth Regulators & Abscissions \$*

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, BLDG. 4, 5555 OVERLAND AVE., SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123 PHONE: (714) 565-5379

The University of California's Agricultural Extension Programs are available to all, without regard to race, color, or national origin. Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture and University of California co-operating

Besemer, S. 1983

The use of short-term residual herbicides is recommended for the control of winter annual weeds. There are several residual herbicides that have been evaluated for this purpose. These include Lorox, Furloe, Goal and Surflan. This group of herbicides will provide 4 to 5 months of vegetation control, when used at the following rates: (active ingredient) Lorox 2-4 lbs/acre, Furloe 2-4 lbs/acre, Goal 0.5 to 1 lb/acre, and Surflan 2-4 lbs/acre. (When using hand application methods, use the above rates in 100 gallons of water, spraying ground and weeds for coverage.)

For maximum broadleaf and grass control, a combination of several of the above will provide broad spectrum control. Examples: Lorox + Furloe, and Goal + Surflan. Both Lorox and Goal have some post-emergence activity. If weeds are more than 3 to 4 inches tall, it is recommended that a post-emergence herbicide be added. These would include Amitrol/Cytrol, Roundup or Paraquat.

The use of these short-term, soil-applied herbicides will also reduce crop injury where root systems may be growing under the treated area.

Care should be exercised when spraying herbicides; best to spray in calm weather; keep greenhouse doors closed; and close off vents near ground level.

The above herbicides are quite stable, but for best results rainfall should occur within 4 weeks after treatment.

(Article contributed by Harry Agamalian, Farm Advisor, Monterey County.)

#### POAST® REGISTERED FOR ORNAMENTALS

Poast (BASF manufacture) is a new herbicide with very unique and valuable properties. It is a selective broad spectrum post-emergence herbicide for control of annual and perennial weeds. It is now registered for use in ornamental, nursery, and other non-food crops.

The herbicide is mixed with a non-phytotoxic oil, and can be sprayed directly over a broadleaf crop and weeds. Normally, with two applications, perennial grasses such as bermudagrass can be completely killed. Usually, only one application is needed to control annual grasses.

At this time only some woody ornamentals are listed on the label as being tolerant, yet undoubtedly many other ornamentals are tolerant.

#### GREETINGS FOR 1984

Since this is the last monthly newsletter for 1983, I want to wish all of you Happy Holidays and may 1984 be a great year for us all! America is still the best place in the world and we should all be thankful we are Americans!

*Seward T. Besemer*

Seward T. Besemer  
Farm Advisor

STB:GP

Season's

Greetings

