

Hormone Preparations for Carnation Propagation

The testing of hormone preparations for aiding propagation is a continuous process at Colorado A & M. In the past five years we have tested many such products, some of which have had extravagant claims made on their behalf.

This work is usually done by undergraduate students. It is set up properly and replicated at least four times so that we can rely on our results. Tests are usually repeated during at least two periods, more if tests are inconclusive.

Carl Bjorklund, now of Kristenstad, Sweden, made exhaustive tests during 1950-51. He tested thoroughly all hormone preparations available commercially at that time and found that Stim Root gave consistently superior results. At times he was able to get equivalent performance from a 1 to 10 dilution of

fermate and Rootone, but at others, this mixture was inferior to Stim Root.

Ed Rakosnik, now of Glenwood Floral, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, handled our hormone testing during 1953-4 and found no product superior to Stim Root.

This fall we received two new hormone preparations which were used on Frosted Sim carnation cuttings in propagation tests made in October and November. Observations were made on the amount of rooting after 19 days for the October and 16 days for the November propagations. This work was done by Kenneth L. Jensen, who is at present an undergraduate in horticulture.

1/ A preparation containing naphthalene acetic and indol butyric acids and a fungicide.

Hormone Trials on Sim Carnations - - - 1954

	Well rooted	Poorly rooted	Not rooted
<u>October 14</u>			
Untreated	22	26	52
Geigy 416 <u>/a</u>	27	35	38
CUTstart XX <u>/b</u>	83	16	1
Stim Root <u>/c</u>	85	7	8
<u>November 2</u>			
Untreated	10	45	45
Geigy 416	5	62	33
CUTstart XX	71	20	9
Stim Root	90	10	--

- /a Geigy Agri. Chemicals, 89 Barclay St., N.Y. 8, N.Y.
- /b Vitamin Institute, 5409 Satsuma Ave., North Hollywood, Calif.
- /c Plant Products Co., Blue Point, New York.

CUTstart XX was approximately equal in value to Stim Root in the October propagation. In the November propagation CUTstart was inferior to Stim Root. Stim Root produced heavier root systems even when comparing well rooted cuttings treated with the two mixtures. Both products are superior to the majority of hormone preparations offered for use on carnations.

Your editor,

W.D. Holley