

POT PLANTS GETTING SMALLER

From the *British Grower Magazine* 108(2), July 9, 1987

The use of the growth regulator paclobutrazol in the production of flowering pot plants has been under investigation. A single spray treatment was effective for several species but there were varietal differences in the best rate of application. Staff at the Bad Zwischenahn Experimental Station treated azaleas, fuchsias and poinsettias with the commercial material, marketed under the trade name Bonzi, to determine the best application strength and to look for any adverse effects after treatment.

The material was extremely effective, with all three species reducing plant growth with only one application. In no case

was there any reduction in the size of the flowers or the leaves, and there was often a bonus in the form of more intense flower colour. There was also a gain of about a week in flowering time compared to untreated plants.

Two and a half or five per cent of the commercial product was a suitable spraying rate for azaleas — either Rosa Perle under glass or Koli grown outside. With fuchsias there were distinct varietal differences in the best application rate.