

POTTED PLANTS

Moderator - Gus Poesch, Fred C. Gloeckner Co.

Reporter - Robert Miller, Cornell University

Thelaeviopsis in poinsettias

Hugo Teute--He uses fermate as a dust over 2 1/4" pots, and sees no injurious effects from it. He also uses Semesan for spot drenching of the bench--1 tsp. Semesan per gallon of water.

Walter Engle--Uses fresh sand, not sterilized--just uses the Semesan drench on the soil. He used 3 1/2 lbs. Semesan per 100 gallons of water.

Orthocide 406 or Captan was used by one person at 1 tsp/gal. of water. This was used as a dip for the cuttings but did not cause excessive damage. It is also used as a drench for benches.

Gus Poesch said that for Pythium and Rhisoctonia control, Semesan is coming back into the picture.

It was generally considered that Semesan, being a

mercury compound, should not be used in any rose house.

Ortho-oxyquinalin sulfate for control of pythium was as effective as other fungicides but Semesan is probably cheaper and easier to use.

Temperature and bud set--Hugo Teute has not experienced bud set when the temperature varied from 60 to 64°F.

Cornell experiments show that buds can be set at 70°F temperatures which were constant, night and day.

Poinsettias normally initiate buds in this latitude about October 10.

Dick Andreasen said that probably the light intensity used to interrupt the night did not affect the flowering. Dr. Andreasen explained that time vs intensity

was the important factor in lighting. A high light intensity for a longer period of time. He said the 10 ft. candles for about one-half hour is a good, safe recommendation.

When to Propagate? Karl Lewis propagated up to October 1 and from this October 1 propagation, he flowered about 85% of the cuttings. He ran 60°F night, 80°F daytimes. Dr. Andreasen emphasized that you could flower late propagated cuttings as long as they were rooted before the start of short days. He pointed out that long roots weren't necessary but that root initials should be visible before short days were started.

It was generally agreed that poinsettias should be lighted in this latitude until October 10. This would eliminate any split heads that might result from poor lighting. It would eliminate premature flowering in many cases.

Walter Engle said he had trouble with chafing on his poinsettias. He blamed it on bouncing in the truck. He emphasized that shelves in the delivery truck should be rigid and the pots placed so that they would not bounce and would not rub against edges of the truck.

Septoria leaf spot -- One grower used Bordeaux twice during August and September before the azaleas were brought in for forcing. There was one objection, however, it did have a residue on the leaves. Fermate can also be used at the rate of 1 1/2-2 lbs. per 100 gallons of water.

Red spider on hydrangea--Parathion and possibly malathion were still the best recommendations.

John Naegele said that Aramite wasn't too desirable on hydrangeas because it has given a yellowed appearance to the leaves of some varieties. Gus Poesch mentioned that he had seen 15W Aramite at the rate of 1 1/2 lbs/100 gallons of water used under lath give control of red spider but it very seriously pitted the variety Merivel and killed Stafford. Aramite or DDT should not be used on hydrangeas.

The injury may be from the oil spreader and John Naegele suggested Dreft as a spreader at the right concentration. If the Dreft was used at a very heavy concentration, all the material ran to edges of the leaves and gave burn to the edges of the leaves. If it was used at a very light concentration, the material did not spread out over the leaves and burn was noticed under the drops. If just the right amount was used, however, no burn or no injury was noticed.

Cyclamen mite control on cyclamen. John Naegele suggested that some growers have used 1/2 oz. of 21% Systox per 100 sq. ft. of area with two to three applications with apparent good success. He mentioned that cyclamen mite was very difficult to control. Two new materials--Endrin and FW293 are looking promising. In using Endrin, 1 qt. of 19% emulsion in 100 gallons of water, plus the spreader, has been successful on the West Coast.

Can hardy varieties of mums be flowered for Mother's Day without shade or black cloth treatment?

Jim Crandall said that he used yellow and white Christopher Columbus and had good luck for Mother's Day without black cloth treatment. Charles Davenport, of North Carolina, said that he potted cuttings March 1, pinched 6 days later and had them in flower for Mother's Day in 3" pots. These were one week in advance which is just about right, according to Gus Poesch. Gus said that the use of 6 and 7 week varieties will enable the grower to get pot mums in flower for Mother's Day without black cloth treatment. Moon-glow is another good one, although it is rather expensive. Remembrance is a good bronze but the growers

should go pretty light on bronze at this time of the year. Marc Cathey says 65°F will control black centers on the variety Wilson's White.

Gus emphasized that pot mums should receive maximum light. Too many people were crowding pot mums. Mr. Weber, from Michigan, said that heat should be given early in the fall to the pot mum crop. Jim Crandall asked about a good red variety for Christmas flowering. The variety Delaware was mentioned as being a little deeper red than poinsettias and was a good Christmas variety. Ed Manda, said that they had great call for pot mums at Christmas time and they grew quite a few white. All together, they moved at Christmas time 4500 pot mums, 3000 poinsettias. He emphasized that they grew a quality pot mum. They used Bonafon Deluxe and Granite State, except at Christmas time. During the dark part of the year, they gave 10 long days before the pinch. After the pinch on Bonafon Deluxe, they gave 4 long days before black cloth treatment; on Granite State, they gave 14 long days before the black cloth treatment. They try to average about 18 flowers per plant in dark weather. They used a 65°F minimum on Bonafon Deluxe; a 62°F absolute minimum on other varieties. They give about 1 1/2 sq. ft. of bench space per pot, except for Granite State--about 1 1/4 sq. ft. It was pointed out that it is not the pot plant growers which are now growing pot mums but it is converted cut flower growers or new people.

What about greenhouse cooling? Dr. Gray said that the full use of the vents would do about as good a job as anything could do. He emphasized that side and roof vents should both be used. He said that some test runs here at Cornell with watering glass to cool the glass or with fans had not proved profitable. In some cases in the drier climates a lowering of 20°F has been possible.

Have there been many sprouts in the lily crop this year? Most bulbs were good quality and should be all right for forcing this year. One grower had noticed quite a bit of grassiness in his lilies; that is, many shoots per bulb. He asked if by thinning these shoots could he get a better plant. Phil Allen, from Stimming's greenhouse, said that they had noticed in the past that you had better not thin because you would merely cut down your flower number since the number of flowers was already determined by the time this condition was noticed.

Heat treating cyclamen--Gus emphasized that in Europe this sort of thing was possible since they had done a lot of work on cyclamen and their conditions over there were different than ours, mainly in having low summer temperatures.

Gloxinias--Temperature is really the important thing; light intensity has an affect but temperature is more important. Rudy Favretti said that gloxinias grown at 40, 60, and 70°F temperatures with long and short days in each temperature group showed that 70°F gloxinias flowered first and that within any temperature group, short day group flowered before the long day group. This held true in all temperatures. He said that during the dark months of the year, gloxinias from seed could be expected to flower in about 6 months from the tuber it took about 5 months. This period was shortened during the spring and fall due to the high light intensity and higher temperatures.

What about pot plant marketing? Dr. Hampton said that the pot plant growers problem was not as critical as the cut flower growers since the studies had shown that pot plants were moving pretty well. He emphasized that the wholesalers should not neglect the established retail outlets since they are going to sell a lot of flowers in the future.