

## Rose Bottom Breaks

Israeli scientists have been able to increase the renewal canes on cv 'Baccara' rose with the aid of Ethrel. British researchers last year found that half the plants sprayed with ethrel (ethephon) between November and March produced at least one bottom break. An effective concentration was 0.5 percent ethephon, however later experiments favored a one percent spray from both sides of the bed.

This year's experiments included plants sprayed at various times before and after pruning. When plants were sprayed near the time they were cut back, the

emergence of bottom canes was much delayed, up to 14 weeks.

On the basis of the British work spraying probably should be done 4 to 6 weeks following pruning to stimulate basal growth after the first crop of flowers is cut. Summer and winter treatments gave similar results provided plants were in full growth.

Baccara and Lovita gave similar and positive results. Pink Sensation has shown little response to ethrel. It is not known whether increased bottom breaks actually increases yield nor is the response of Forever Yours or Cara Mia known. WDH.