

TALL GERANIUMS

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When geraniums grown from cuttings are started early, they may stretch, become tall and not too salable. Crowding (pot to pot), rooting in the bench, poor timing and the variety may all contribute to stretching. Growers faced with this problem have turned to the use of growth regulators.

Cycocel and A-Rest have been found effective when sprayed on the foliage when branches are 1-1 1/2 inches long or 2-3 weeks after planting in 4" pots.

Cycocel is applied at the rate of 1:80 (one pint per 10 gallons of water) along with a spreader sticker. The cost is low, about 1/7¢ per pot. It may cause some yellowing which should disappear.

A-Rest is applied at the rate of 24 oz. with 8 oz. of water to make one quart. This will treat about 600 4" pinched plants (pot to pot) at a cost of about 3¢ per pot.

The growth retardants will reduce height but not delay flowering. Growers have found a slight increase in the number of breaks. They also find that one can grow geraniums pot to pot for 4 weeks longer without undue stretching.

If your geraniums get away from you with your existing program, why not consider growth regulators to improve the sales appeal of your plants.