

IV. Too Deep Setting of Geranium Cuttings in Rooting Media may Cause Diseases by Dr. Norman W. Butterfield

Occasionally growers come to us with the problem of rooting geranium cuttings. What is our diagnosis in such cases:-

1. Cuttings are much too long and hence the end of the cutting remains in an area in the rooting media where it is much too moist.
2. In most instances in spite of good or even perfect drainage, the end of the cutting remains in too high moisture which excludes the oxygen and deteriorates the cutting itself.
3. The degree of coarseness of the rooting media, whether it be sand or perlite, is important but perhaps not to the degree we might expect. Proper moisture levels and drainage are important too.
4. Other contributing factors are:-
 - a. Failure to sterilize the media and also the beds.
 - b. Diseased stock plants - especially if the disease is systemic in nature.
5. The end of cuttings of the geranium to be rooted should not be set more than 2" deep into a media of 5 - 6" deep. This means the total length of the cutting might be 3 or 4" long and not 7-10 inches long.