

Weed Control in the Greenhouse

Paraquat and Diquat (from Geiger News, Vol. 3, No. 5)

Reports on these two contact weed killers, or chemical hoes, are excellent. They are cleaning up weeds in the tree nursery, rose bed, and in paths and benches where pots are to be set. However, we must report that we have seen some burn of the green, immature stems of Pink Sensation Rose where Diquat has been used, and we have heard of similar injury from Paraquat. It is a question as to how serious this will be, but it should remind every user that these herbicides should be kept off of green tissue. This injury would be increased by the addition of any excess of the recommended spreader.

Also, we have been told that Artemesia, Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, and Cytissus are very susceptible to Paraquat. Any slight mist or vapor from the spray has affected plants of these genera, where many other plants beside them have not been injured in any way.

A letter from Dr. D. C. Kiplinger of Ohio State U. states that they have successfully used Paraquat at 1/2 to 1 ounce per gallon of water to kill weeds under greenhouse benches. Kip says Paraquat "leaves no toxic residue whatsoever." Dr. Kiplinger also writes that he has seen growers use Paraquat to control weeds in potted plants, such as hydrangea, out of doors. The pressure must be low, and the nozzle kept close to the soil so that the spray does not splash up on the leaves. Spraying the pots caused no injury.

Note: Paraquat has a high mammalian toxicity. Label instructions as to precautions necessary in handling and using this chemical should be followed to the letter. WDH.