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## Trial Results and Significance to Greenhouse and Nursery Operations

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## 2009 Cold Tolerance Container Trials – Trial Details

- Pageant applications (8 oz/100 gals) were applied to several annual varieties in 4 to 4.5-inch pots at various intervals prior to exposing them to freezing temperatures.
- Application intervals were:
  1 day before cold event
  2 days before cold event
  4 days before cold event
  14 days and 1 day before
  14 days and 2 days before
  14 days and 4 days before



Dbl Impatiens at 1<sup>st</sup> application

## Cold Tolerance Container Trials – Results

**Double Impatiens 'Rockapulco'** 

- 4 hours 33 minutes
   below 32° F (29.8° F Average)
- Pageant (8 oz /100 gals)

   applied at 2 days and 2 & 14
   days prior to the cold event
   exhibited the least injury
- Untreated 25% injury
   Pageant 2 days 0% Injury



9 Days After Cold Event

Untreated

Pageant 8 oz 2 & 14 Days Before Cold

## Cold Tolerance Container Trials – Results

#### **Zonal Geranium**

- 3 hours 48 minutes
   below 32° F (30.3° F Average)
- Pageant applied at 14 days and 1 & 14 days prior to the cold event exhibited the least injury
- Untreated 16.3% injury
   Pageant 14 days 0% Injury
   Pageant 1 and 14 days 3.1% Injury

9 Days After Cold Event



Untreated

Pageant 8 oz 1 & 14 Days Before Cold

## **New Guinea Impatiens**

9 Days After Cold



Untreated

Pageant Applied 1 Day Before Cold

# Cold Tolerance Trials Rooted Liners Evaluation and Results

## 0 - 4 Cold Injury/Marketability Rating Scale

4 = No Injury – Salable
3 = Slight Injury – Salable
2 = Moderate Injury – Not Salable
1 = Severe Injury – Not Salable
0 = Death



 Each replication was assigned an injury/marketability rating 28 hours following the cold treatment.

## Cold Tolerance Trials Rooted Liners Improved Cold Tolerance

Variety	Pageant	Untreated
Calibrachoa 'Callie Deep Yellow'	4	3
Lantana 'Bandana Cherry'	3	2
Lobelia 'Techno Heat Violet'	4	3
Fuchsia 'Swing Time'	4	2
Lobelia 'Techno Heat White'	4	3
New Guinea Impatiens 'Sonic Pink'	2.5	1.5

Two Trials

- 5.75 to 8 hours below freezing inside the boxes
- 26.2°, 28.7°F Low temperatures

# Grower Applications as Result of Cold Tolerance Trials

#### **Duwaynes Greenhouses (MI) – Cooperator**

- Ships liners in boxes via FedEx and ground to growers across the country in the late winter.
- Delivery methods are not temperature regulated.
- General rule No shipping occurs if < 25° F</li>
- Delaying shipping often increases work load the rest of the week.
- As result of the trials, all liners are sprayed with Pageant within 1 wk of shipping.

Credits are down since this was implemented!!!

# Grower Applications as Result of Cold Tolerance Trials

## Kurtz Farms (CT) – PSC Client

- Moved pansies in flower from a heated greenhouse outside in late March.
- Below freezing temperatures were expected a few days later.
- Discussed options, shared past cold tolerance results, and BASF contact info.
- Grower applied Pageant (12 oz/100 gals as spray) two days before cold event.
- Low temps reached 26-27° F for 3.5 hours
- No injury observed following cold event. Injury was observed on combo pots containing pansies in the same outside production site. Shipped the next day. (Saved the crop!)

## Pot Mum Drought Tolerance Trials Trial Details

Three Cultivars Tested –

'Butterfield', 'Durango', 'Point Pelee'

- URCs direct stuck into 4.5-inch pots on June 15, 2010
- Moved to growing environment (gutter connect greenhouse) and short days provided after they were rooted.
- Pageant spray applied on August 21, 2010 (8 and 12 oz per 100 gallons) to budded plants, applying 2 quarts/100 sq feet
- •Final irrigation on August 22, 2010 (subirrigation)
- •Plants placed on pallets to prevent additional irrigation applications.



## Pot Mum Drought Tolerance Trials Evaluation and Results

- Each replication was assigned drought ratings based on plant appearance and the extent the individual plants were wilted.
- The following scale was used to demonstrate the extent of water stress these plants received.

0 – 4 Drought Rating Scale

0 = None 1 = Slight Wilting 2 = Moderate Wilting 3 = Severe Wilting 4 = Death



Rating 2



Rating 3

 Drought ratings were assigned to each replication at least once daily from August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Pot Mum Drought Tolerance Trials Evaluation and Results

- The last three days of this study were considerably hotter than the conditions these plants were accustomed to growing at.
- The outside high temperatures were 84.7, 91.0, and 89.6° F each of the last three days (warmer inside the greenhouses); the normal highs for this location during the month of August average 80.4° F.
- With these temperatures, there was more heat stress experienced by the plants which required more transpiration and water consumption; therefore, the plants dried out at a faster rate than under more 'normal circumstances'.

## Pot Mum Drought Tolerance Trials Time to Severe Wilting

#### Average Days to Severe Wilting (Drought Rating 3)

Treatment	Butterfield	Durango	Point Pelee
Untreated	6.625	6.25	6.8125
Pageant 8 oz	6.5625	6.375	6.9375
Pageant 12 oz	6.875	6.8125	7.0

- Pageant at the 12 oz rate increased the amount of time until severe injury symptoms were observed with all cultivars.
  - 'Point Pelee'
    4.5 hours longer than untreated plants
  - 'Butterfield'
    6 hours longer than untreated plants
  - 'Durango' 13.5 hours longer than untreated plants
- Although 4.5 to 13.5 hours may not seem that significant, for a grower or a retailer, even an extra hour or two would be incredibly significant for them.

# Pot Mum Drought Tolerance Trials Marketability Ratings

- Each replication was assigned a marketability rating at various intervals over the course of these trials.
- 1 5 Marketability Rating Scale

5 = Excellent, Salable (no injury - no chlorosis, optimum top growth)
4 = Good, Salable (slight injury - slight chlorosis or slightly damaged flowers)
3 = Moderate, Marginal Salable (moderate injury - chlorosis and/or damaged flowers)
2 = Poor, Unsalable (severe injury - severe chlorosis and flower injury)
1 = Death, Not Salable

 The marketability ratings were greatly influenced by the appearance of the plants when the ratings were assigned to each replication. For example, the replications that were under drought stress and appeared wilted received lower ratings then a 'normal appearing plant' and as the wilting lessened, the marketability ratings increased.

## **Pot Mum Drought Tolerance Trials**

Pot Mum 'Durango' Marketability Ratings



Plants treated with 12 oz Pageant prior to the drought event took slightly longer to express symptoms.

## **Pot Mum Drought Tolerance Trials**

Pot Mum 'Durango' Marketability Ratings



Plants treated with 12 oz Pageant prior to the drought event took slightly longer to express symptoms and recovered faster than untreated plants.

# Increased Drought Tolerance with Pageant

- The ability to extend shelf life or delay the need for irrigation is very useful for growers while shipping plants long distances or for retailers who cannot always be there the minute a plant needs to be watered.
- Extending the time for severe wilting will allow growers more flexibility with how they need to prioritize their daily activities (not recommending growers use this as a water management tool during production).

- Pageant (12 oz/ 100 gals) was applied to 3 garden mum cultivars on August 25, 2011.
- Untreated and treated plants were identified with colored stickers and randomized in shuttle trays.
- On August 31, 2011, the garden mums were shipped to and received Home Depot in Alpena, MI.



#### **Irrigation Benefits Observed**

- All of the plants were watered when they were received at the store.
- Untreated plants required water every 2 days.
- Pageant treated plants did not require water until day 7.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> watering for Pageant treated plants was 4 days later (weather was about 10 degrees warmer than the first week).
- 1<sup>st</sup> 11 days at the store -
  - Untreated watered 5 times.
  - Pageant treated plants watered 2 times.

Pageant treated plants received 60% less irrigations

#### **Drought Recovery**

#### Merchandiser comments:

'Had one mum that was completely wilted, I watered it good and it bounced right back, not something a mum normally does. Mums are not a forgiving plant when they dry out, they do not bounce back, have injured leaves, and sometimes die'



2 weeks after shipping, the untreated plant on the left had a significant amount of brown, senescing flowers and was no longer marketable. The plant on the right was treated with Pageant, had no brown flowers and was still highly marketable 14 days after it was received by the store.

#### **Increased Shelf Life**



Untreated

Pageant 12 oz

# Grower Applications as Result of Pageant Retail Trial

#### Micandy Gardens (MI) – Cooperator

- As a result of the trials, the grower replicated this study on their own using a larger container size.
- Their results were similar to those observed in the initial study.
- Next year Micandy Gardens plans to apply Pageant to all of their garden mums prior to shipping.
- They also are interested into looking for opportunities with other crops.

Perennial Solutions 2012 Pageant Intrinsic Trials

- Post Harvest Benefits with Pageant Annuals
- Reducing Transplant Stress with Pageant on Shrubs
- Enhanced Root Development with Pageant Stock Plants
- Enhanced Root Development with Pageant Unrooted Cuttings

## **Reducing Transplant Stress**



Untreated

Pageant Applied 6 Days Before Transplanting

30 Days After Transplanting

## Stock/Prop. Trial

#### Quince (Chaenomeles speciosa)



Untreated

Pageant 12 oz Applied to Stock Plants 3 Days Before Harvesting Cuttings



#### Untreated

Pageant 12 oz Applied to Stock Plants 3 Days Before Harvesting Cuttings

**39 Days After Sticking** 

## Lilac Syringa 'Bloomerang Purple'



Untreated

Pageant 12 oz Applied to Stock Plants 3 Days Before Harvesting Cuttings

## Lilac

#### Syringa 'Bloomerang Purple'



#### Untreated

Pageant 12 oz Applied to Stock Plants 3 Days Before Harvesting Cuttings

52 Days After Sticking



Untreated

Pageant 12 oz Applied to Stock Plants 3 Days Before Harvesting Cuttings

## Verbena – URC Trial



Untreated

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied 4 Days After Sticking

## **Verbena – URC Trial**



Untreated

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking

## Verbena – URC Trial

Untreated

Pageant 4 oz/100 gallons Applied At Sticking

## **Evolvulus URC Trial**

7 Days After Sticking

R12—35 / E12—0400 / IP Pilon Evolvulus glomeratus Hawaiian Blue Eyes Treatment 4 (untreated) 250 ppm ppm / 13: Avg / Wk 20/26

Untreated

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking

500 ppm / 13: Avg / wk 20/25

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied 4 Days After Sticking

Evolvulus glomeralus Hawaiian Blue, Eyes Trealment 2 (4oz/100gal

1 17: Ave / wk 20/25

## **Evolvulus URC Trial**

7 Days After Sticking

**Untreated - Top Row** 



Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking- Bottom Row

## **Evolvulus URC Trial**



Untreated



Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking

## **Repeated Verbena and Evolulus Trials**

Week 31 Week 32

## Verbena Week 31 URC Trial

Untreated

Total Root Length 7.54 Inches Per Cutting



12 Days After Sticking

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking

Total Root Length 16.27 Inches Per Cutting +115%

## Verbena Week 31 URC Trial



15 Days After Sticking

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking

**Growth Index** 

Untreated

Growth Index = (Length + Widest Width + Width Perpendicular)/3

## **Evolvulus Week 31 URC Trial**

Untreated

Total Root Length 5.354 Inches Per Cutting



12 Days After Sticking

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking

Total Root Length 5.75 Inches Per Cutting +8.24%

## **Evolvulus Week 31 URC Trial**

Untreated

Total Root Length 23.6 Inches Per Cutting



19 Days After Sticking

Pageant 4 oz/100 gals Applied After Sticking

Total Root Length 33.53 Inches Per Cutting

+42.05%

# Perennial Solutions Pageant Intrinsic Trial Summary

- Drought studies
  - All trials produced favorable results
  - Increased time for drought symptoms to develop
  - Better, full recovery from drought
- Cold tolerance studies
  - Increased tolerance to cold often observed
  - Results vary by variety tested, temperature during cold event, and duration of cold
  - Plants recover from cold faster than untreated plants

# Perennial Solutions Pageant Intrinsic Trial Summary

## Additional Observations

- Reduces the development and/or magnitude of symptoms following stress events (Wilting, leaf yellowing, shattering of flower petals)
- Treated plants recover from stress and resume a normal rate of growth faster than untreated plants
- Results vary from trial to trial and sometimes are not duplicated

(maybe related to environmental factors or the health of the plant at the time of application)

# Perennial Solutions Pageant Intrinsic Trial Summary

- Pageant Intrinsic brand fungicide
  - Offers growers excellent disease control
  - Enhances plant health
  - Helps to decrease plant stress
  - May be useful to improve cold tolerance
    - Shipping, light frost events, when moving plants from greenhouses to outdoor sites
  - May provide drought tolerance
    - Beneficial for shipping and retail situations

# Pageant Intrinsic Benefits Where to Begin

#### Plant Health Benefits Established Plantings

- Benefits commonly observed at 8-12 oz per 100 gallons
- Sprays @ 12 oz/100 gallons Excellent Starting Point

#### Propagation Benefits

- Benefits observed at 4-8 oz per 100 gallons
- Sprays @ 4 oz/100 gallons Rooting Benefit Only
- Sprays @ 8 oz/100 gallons Rooting Benefits + Disease





Perennial Solutions Consulting

Thank You!!! Questions?

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