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DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR PLANT GROWTH
REGULATION IN EUROPE.

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The intensive use of chemical growth retardants is of environmental concern. Restrictions on the use of chemical growth retardants have been introduced in Europe in the recent years, and reflect a need for developing efficient non-chemical methods for plant growth regulation. Experiments with a range of genetically and ecologically widely differing plant species have shown that chemical growth regulation can be significantly reduced by using a low P buffer technique or drought stress as single factors or in combinations. Reduced nutrient and water availability during production also improved the post-production quality by significantly reducing the number of senescent flower buds and delayed root dieback compared with chemically growth-regulated plants. The presentation will give you an update on new promising methods for plant growth regulation and what attempts were made in Europe to implement the results to the horticultural industry.