

GROWTH REGULATION OF ORNAMENTALS IN EUROPE – FOCUS ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS

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The intensive use of chemical growth retardants is of environmental concern. In recent years, restrictions on the use of chemical PGRs have been introduced in Europe, 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 have the results implemented by the horticultural industry.