CONFIGURE: A NEW PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR FOR ORNAMENTAL CROPS

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ABSTRACT

Configure™, a new plant growth regulator which contains the active ingredient N-(phenylmethyl)-1H-purine-6-amine (most commonly called benzyladenine or 6-BA) recently received EPA approval for use in enhancing lateral branching and the promotion of flowering in certain ornamental crops. Trials conducted by Dr. Joyce Latimer at Virginia Tech University and Paul Pilon (Perennial Solutions Consulting, Jenison, MI) have demonstrated significant increases in branching on Echinacea with foliar applications of Configure. Dr. Latimer also conducted trials in 2007 on Hosta, which demonstrated significant increases in offset production with Configure. Additionally, studies have been conducted by Dr. Brian Whipker at North Carolina State University in which Configure was shown to promote vegetative branching and increase the number of flower buds on Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera spp.). Fine Americas, Inc. is in the process of expanding the Configure label which, once approved, would give growers the ability to trial Configure on a wide range of crops.