



The ABCs of PGRs on Poinsettia:

Smart Strategies to Enhance Crop Quality

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Early Mars Red poinsettia. Image courtesy of Syngenta Flowers, Inc.

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Poinsettias respond well to several plant growth regulators (PGRs), which is good news for growers. Smart PGR use enables growers to manipulate plant growth to meet crop specs, manage crop quality and maximize profitability through space optimization.

Many factors influence PGR application strategies including plant and pinch dates, temperature, **Florel**[®] applications, the overall health of the crop and the desired finished appearance of the crop. As an aside, the use of graphical tracking with poinsettia crops provides valuable information to guide PGR applications. One great resource is Dümme-Ecke's graphical tracking tool, which is [available here](#).

Enhanced Branching

Florel is used to encourage strong and even branching by making foliar applications 5-7 days before and after the hand pinch. This also reduces internode elongation and, therefore, less PGRs are generally needed to finish the crop. Naturally compact cultivars may not respond well to Florel, so trial first on any new varieties.

Augeo[™] is a relatively new treatment option; it can be used to promote lateral branching on non-pinched plants. Apply one week earlier than the traditional pinch date. Up to one week of delay in bract color-up and anthesis may occur. When Augeo rates are too low, the main shoot will remain dominant and branching will be poor. Trial on a small scale is recommended before treating large numbers of plants under your conditions.

Reduced Internode Elongation

Cycocel[®] is typically used as a foliar spray to the point of glisten. Under warm conditions, foliar sprays may need to be repeated as often as 5- to 7-day intervals. If the spray volume is heavy enough to cause spray droplets on foliage, yellowing is likely to occur where the "puddles" appear, regardless of the rate applied. Avoid application after Oct 15th in the north or Oct 28th in the south, due to risk of reduced bract size.

B-Nine[®] can be used as a tank-mix partner with Cycocel to give significantly more hold than Cycocel alone. The tank mix should be applied as a foliar spray to the point of glisten. GGSPRO generally recommends only one application of the tank mix per crop; apply prior to Sept 25th in the north and October 1st in the south. Later treatments can produce a significant delay in the onset of color and a reduction in bract size.

Topflor[®] is a relatively new PGR that's very active on poinsettias when applied as a spray or drench. Due to limited grower experience with Topflor, GGSPRO encourages growers to conduct small-scale trials to get a feel for the best rates and application methods for their conditions.

Bonzi[®] "micro drenches" were named and developed by Dr. Jim Barrett at the University of Florida. Very low rates of Bonzi are drenched on the poinsettia crop as often as once a week in combination with graphical tracking to achieve optimal crop height, with little or no risk of reducing bract size. Starting in late October, higher drench rates can be used to provide stronger hold if needed with a slight reduction in bract size.

Increasing height, expanding bracts

Fascination[®] is a combination of two gibberellins and a cytokinin for use as a foliar spray to add height to a poinsettia crop that's too short. Fascination may also be used to expand bracts that are too small as a result of cooler production or other factors. Some success has been achieved using Fascination to overcome an over-application of PGRs used for height reduction.

Always read and follow the entire product label. Not all products are labeled for use in all states. Products other than those listed here may also be safe and effective.

Featured Products

Product	Size	Item No.
Augeo	1/2 gal.	73-1175
B-Nine WSG	1 lb.	73-12511
Bonzi	1 gal.	70-1265
Cycocel	1 gal.	73-1381
Fascination	1/2 gal.	73-1910
Florel	1 gal.	55-100161
Topflor	2 ltr.	73-2005