

22% more cuttings

GERANIUM

Susan Parent and Ed Bloodnick,
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OBJECTIVE

Compare the number of cuttings/ geranium plant produced when grown with and without mycorrhizae.

METHODS

Geranium cuttings were previously rooted before sticking in either the mycorrhizal inoculated or the non inoculated control growing mix. They were grown in 8 inch pots (azalea type). The temperature was kept at 24-29.5°C during the day and at 21°C at night.

Fertigation practices were used with commercial fertilizers. The mycorrhizal plants were fertilized with a 20-2-20 (Plantex/Plantco Inc.) prepared in order to have a concentration of 200 ppm of

nitrogen. Non-mycorrhizal plants received a fertilizer with more phosphorus, 20-10-20 which was applied at the same nitrogen rate as 20-2-20. Irrigation solution was applied with a drip tube irrigation system.

From the 600 plants grown in each growing media, 10 plants from each group were used to evaluate the quantity of cuttings produced at the end of the trial which lasted 32 weeks.

RESULTS

Mycorrhizal inoculated plants produced an average of 22% more cuttings than the control ($p=0.05$).

Effect of mycorrhizae on the average number of geranium cuttings per plant.

