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AUSSIE FLOWERS (SUNDANCE FARMS)

COOLIDGE, AZ

MAY-JULY, 1998

Three separate trials were conducted using the following varieties:

1) Statice, 2) Sunflowers, 3) Lisianthus, 4) Safflower, 5) asters

Aussie Flowers have been attempting to grow flowers for three years. Vita Products, Inc. went to the 10 acre shade cloth enclosed structure. Irrigation is performed through drip tape. Water is recycled tail water from existing farms and flows into a 3 acre pond. Methods of insect control-Lanate and Ambush. Last sprayed Lanate and Ambush April 29, 1998 due to an overpopulation of insects. Upon arriving at the structure, all of the plants were stunted. The plants had been in the ground since October, 1997. Lights had been turned on at night in the structure to induce growth of existing plants. No difference in growth was noticed. The propagation house (two) had some Lisianthus plants which were whitish brown in color and were in a dormant stage. Most of the plants had been thrown out prior to our arrival. These also had been in the propagation house since January. The grower explained that the previous grower did not have any success in growing these flowers as was the case now. EC's of water was 2.8 which was almost the same for the soil.

All of the above flowers are cool season flowers. Lisianthus requires propagation temperatures between 60-70 degrees with high humidity. One may reach a germination rate of 50-60% as this variety is difficult to germinate. Lisianthus, according to Sakata Seeds, will not grow past 87 degrees F. Germination rate is 90 days.

MAY 16, 1998

Vita Planta was sprayed on 1/2 of the remaining plants in the propagation house. The others had been previously sprayed with water. Temperature inside house is 89 degrees. Zone 10, a total of 10 zones or one acre per zone, was set up as one trial. One randomly selected row, 8, was sprayed with Vita Planta with 36 rows per zone.

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MAY 17, 2002

Mr. Rodriguez, the grower, called and most of the Lisianthus were turning green while the control was the same both in the propagation house and zone 10. Nothing has ever been able to grow in Zone 10.

MAY 18 & MAY 19, 1998

Lisianthus and peppers seeded in propagation house. One-half were sprayed with Vita Planta, the other as a control using water. The trays of seedlings were alternated as to get the proper treated and control variables. Zone 1, Statice, was treated with Vita Planta using the first row and the last row which were randomly selected out of 36 rows. All 36 rows are treated twice daily with either water or Vita Planta as is the same in the propagation house.

MAY 21, 1998

Temperatures are reaching in the high 90's. Conducting trials on Safflower. Agricultural Consultant told Aussie Flowers to disc up the Safflower as it had Texas Root Rot. Zone 3-Randomly selected 5 rows out of 36 as a Vita Planta trial. We are going to treat rows 2, 9, 13, 27, and 34 with the Vita Planta. Treatment will be twice a day. All the plants seemed to be very stressed.

MAY 26, 1998

Temperatures increased towards 100's. Statice in Zone 1 is greener and healthier looking than the control. Flowers are beginning on Vita Planta group and none on the control. Old plants in the propagation house have started to root with the Vita Planta and the control is still dormant. Vita Planta treated safflower are responding to treatment and some of the control are starting to die and the rest are in severe stress.

MAY 27, 1998

Zone 2-Asters-randomly selected 5 rows-#s 4, 9, 15, 21, and 36 as Vita Planta rows with the rest as control. Asters are still stunted and not healthy. Treated rows with Vita Planta and will continue twice a day as will the control group with water.

Zone 6-Sunflowers-very stunted and lifeless. Randomly selected rows 3, 17, 24, 30, & 31 and Vita Planta rows with the rest being control. Sprayed Vita Planta and will remain twice daily as will be the control with water.

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MAY 31, 1998

Temperatures in high 90's-low 100's. All of the Vita Planta trials are improving with main improvement in statice and lisianthus as these have been going longer than the other trials. Control has not improved and in some cases has worsened due to the increase in temperature and/or a decrease in plant health.

June 3, 1998

Temperatures in the low 100's. Increasing waterings (spraying) to 4 times daily due to an increase in transpiration rate. Insect problem. Zone 1-Statice-doing extremely well with Vita Planta. Control group losing plants due to heat stress. Selected Vita Planta rows to be sprayed with VPX to increase plants immune system on all of the Vita Planta rows in selected zones.

June 4, 1998

Report is no insects and no insect damage to plants with Vita Planta and VPX. Severe damage on control grouping throughout the 10 acres. Zone 10-Lisianthus row 8 has grown two feet while the others are at or at the same. Some are going into dormancy. Zone 2-Asters have already shown improvement with the Vita Planta. Zone 6-Sunflowers in control group have lost approximately 1/2 of the plants in the control while the Vita Planta rows have increased in size and health.

Zone 3-Safflower in the control group has all but completely removed. The Vita Planta rows, 3, 17, 24, 30, and 31 are continuing to show improvement without the stress as the other plants.

JUNE 10, 1998

Temperatures 105-110. Leaves starting on the peppers and lisianthus in the propagation house after 23 days. No insects and germination rate will be at least 80% with 2 year old seed which has not been cooled. Old lisianthus plants in the propagation house have now been transplanted in Zone 8. Most of the plants in all of the control sections have signs of severe stress as temperatures continue to climb. Vita Planta plants are continuing to thrive.

June 22, 1998

Temperatures 110-115. Lisianthus flowers in Zone 10, row 8, are above the three foot mark. Flowers are extremely healthy with the Vita Planta. The control are wilted and with severe insect damage. Zone 1-Statice, Zone 3-Safflower, Zone 2-Asters, and Zone 6-Sunflowers and beginning to show severe stress and insect damage while the Vita Planta rows are very healthy with no additional signs of insects or damage from insects.

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JUNE 28, 1998

Temperature 110-115. Zone 10 lisianthus are going so quickly and producing flowers as such a quick rate, once they are cut, approximately 12 hours later they may be cut again. All of the lisianthus in the 36 rows are now dormant except for row 8 the Vita Planta treated row. The rest of the rows will be removed June 29, 1998 and replaced with new propagation ones. This is the area where nothing in previous years has been able to produce any plants. Zones 1, 3, 2, & 6-all control plants have to be removed due to death or very severe insect and/or stress. All of the Vita Planta rows are extremely healthy and are not affected by the heat.

JULY 1, 1998

Some true leaves are starting to show on the lisianthus and peppers in the propagation house. Temperature in house is 105 degrees F. New transplants in Zone 10 are thriving and almost 100% success.

JULY 4, 1998

Temperature in Coolidge, Az is 114 degrees F., the highest in the nation. All flowers in all Zones are growing very quickly with full blossoms with no signs of insects or stress. Transplants, 99% of them, are thriving and healthy.

Zone 1-Status flowers are thriving. All of the Vita Planta rows are blooming while the others have been removed.

Zone 2-Asters-Harvesting flowers. Control group gone.

Zone 3-Safflower have no signs of stress nor the effects of Texas Root Rot as was mentioned May 21, 1998. Zone 6-Sunflowers have been cultivated and sold. Height in excess of 10 feet. All other rows have been removed.

Zone 10-Lisianthus flowers are continuing to grow very rapidly and unaffected by the sun and/or heat.

Vita Products, Inc. went out to Aussie Flowers August 15, 1998 as this organization decided to not stay in the flower business. Vita Products, Inc. was fortunate to have been able to conduct these independent tests for Vita Planta and VPX. All of the same rows and flowers were still thriving as they were July 4, 1998.