



Sumagic on Bedding Plants

Usage of this highly active PGR on bedding plants is a risky move; find out how to use it, when it's best used and how much is recommended based on this MSU research.

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Producing compact bedding plants often involves a chemical means of height control. Sumagic (uniconazole, Valent USA Corp.) is a plant growth-regulating chemical that reduces stem elongation and is used to control height of ornamental plants. In addition to being more compact, treated plants may also have darker green foliage, thicker leaves and stronger stems than untreated plants. The active ingredient in Sumagic is chemically similar to

that in Bonzi and Piccolo (paclobutrazol, Syngenta Professional Products and Fine Agronomics, respectively), but Sumagic is more active on a ppm basis.

Sumagic is very powerful and highly effective on a wide range of plants but has not been widely used on bedding plants. Some growers have been hesitant to use a product with high activity due to the potential for overdose and stunting. Another concern is that the effects of Sumagic could persist through the growing season and

Figure 1. Plants (10 plants per treatment) and rates used in this research.

Plant	Sumagic spray rates	Bonzi spray rate
<i>Celosia plumosa</i> 'Apricot Brandy'	0, 1, 1½, 5 or 10 ppm	8 ppm
<i>Salvia splendens</i> 'Vista Red'	0, 1, 2½, 5 or 10 ppm	8 ppm
<i>Petunia multiflora</i> 'Prostrate Wave Rose'	0, 2½, 5, 10 or 20 ppm	8 ppm
<i>Tagetes erecta</i> 'Inca II Orange'	0, 2½, 5, 10 or 20 ppm	8 ppm

Effect of Sumagic or Bonzi on celosia 'Apricot Brandy'. A single spray application was made to plants (at 2 quarts per 100 feet²) eight days after transplant. Plants were grown under a 16-hour day in a glass greenhouse set at 68° F. (All photos courtesy of Erik Runkle)

	Control	Sumagic (ppm)				Bonzi 8 ppm
		1	2½	5	10	
7 days after spray						
14 days after spray						