

PLANTS AS GUINEA PIGS?

My wife works for a medical association that deals with anesthesiology and I work in the horticulture industry. So, it is a rare occasion when our industries actually converge.

But that's what happened last month, when we both saw an article, "What Sedated Plants Can Teach Scientists About Anesthetizing People," on www.smithsonian.com. The article takes a look at how researchers have discovered that some anesthetics used to sedate humans can be used to put plants to sleep.

For centuries now, growers have known that plants respond differently to different types of external stimuli. But recently, an international team of scientists tested diethyl ether and lidocaine on several different types of plants to see how they would react and what it could mean in the operating room.

What they found was that when the anesthetics were "used at appropriate concentrations [they] block action potentials and immobilize organs." They actually put the plants to sleep just like they do with human beings.

The researchers' report concludes that "plants emerge as the ideal model objects to study general questions related to anesthesia."

Much like humans, the plants reacted differently depending on the plant type, the anesthesia and how it was applied. But the research showed there are similarities that deserve additional exploration in the future.

While this research is only in its infancy, the medical community is excited about its possibilities.

"Plants are not just robotic, stimulus-response devices," said Frantisek Baluska, one of the researchers at the University of Bonn in Germany. "They're living organisms which have their own problems, maybe something like with humans feeling pain or joy.

These findings are helping doctors to develop a better understanding of how the anesthetics work on plants so that information can then be used on humans when they undergo surgery.


Plants and people have a lot in common, but who would have ever guessed that plants could be used as guinea pigs for medical research for humans?

You can read the entire article on the Smithsonian's website by going to www.tinyurl.com/sedatingplants. You can learn more about the scientists' findings in the Annals of Botany (www.tinyurl.com/anesthesia-research).

A HOT TOPIC

This month we are introducing a new quarterly column to the pages of GPN. Tropical plants are a hot topic in the industry so we plan to address this plant class in Hot Tropics.

In each column, industry veteran Andrew Britten will delve into the growing traits and benefits of a specific tropical plant category and how growers can take advantage of it. If you are looking to broaden your product offering with tropical plants, Hot Tropics will provide you with additional education and insight in this emerging category.

Turn to page 28 and check out Andrew's first contribution, "Let's Talk Ginger." 



616.520.2161

thodson@greatamericanpublish.com

 www.facebook.com/gpnmag

 www.twitter.com/gpnmag

 www.instagram.com/gpnmag

gpn
GREENHOUSE
PRODUCT NEWS

STAFF

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Tim Hodson, thodson@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2161

MANAGING EDITOR

Jasmina Dolce, jdolce@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2162

RETAIL EDITOR

Abby Kleckler, akleckler@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2163

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ana Olvera, aolvera@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2171

CUSTOM CONTENT MANAGER

Jess Schmidt, jschmidt@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2141

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Kristina Howell, khowell@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2168

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Amanda Mackey, amackey@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2157

DIGITAL DESIGNER

Allison McKenzie, amckenzie@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2142

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Samantha Orsi, sorsi@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2148

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Becky Stovall, bstovall@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2138

GROUP MARKETING DIRECTOR

Melissa Gray, mgray@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2153

ACCOUNTING/BILLING

Sally Ostman, sostman@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2136

COO & DIRECTOR OF CUSTOM MEDIA

Kimberly Baker, kbaker@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2135

CEO

Matt McCallum, mmccallum@greatamericanpublish.com

ADVERTISING

VICE PRESIDENT, GROUP PUBLISHER

Bob Bellew, bbellew@greatamericanpublish.com
606.520.2164

INTEGRATED MEDIA CONSULTANT - WEST COAST

Kimberly Sammartino, ksammartino@greatamericanpublish.com
630.901.4735

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MANAGER

Kim Meyers, kmeyers@greatamericanpublish.com
616.520.2137

SUBSCRIPTIONS

CIRCULATION OFFICE

616.520.2138

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

DIANE BLAZEK NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

MARSHALL DIRKS PROVEN WINNERS

PAUL FISHER UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

JUSTIN HANCOCK COSTA FARMS

LELA KELLY DOSATRON

ANNE LEVENTRY PANAMERICAN SEED

DANNY TAKAO TAKAO NURSERY

BRIAN WEESIES MAST YOUNG PLANTS

GREAT AMERICAN MEDIA SERVICES INC.

P.O. Box 128, Sparta, Michigan 49345

Phone: 616.887.9008 • Fax: 616.887.2666

Email: frontdesk@greatamericanpublish.com

Greenhouse Product News is a publication of

a division of Great American Publishing

GPN accepts no responsibility or liability for the validity of information supplied by contributors, vendors, advertisers or advertising agencies.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

GPN (ISSN 1529-5524) is published monthly by Great American Media Services Inc., 75 Applewood Dr., Suite A, Sparta, Michigan 49345. Subscription rates in the U.S. are \$30 per year (Canada is \$50 and all other countries are \$60 payable in U.S. currency). Reproduction of contents forbidden. Copyright 2018. Periodical postage paid at Sparta, MI and additional mailing offices.

Printed in the USA. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Greenhouse Product News, Attn: Circulation, P.O. Box 128, Sparta, Michigan 49345, USA.


Alliance for
Audited Media