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TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN

Subject:

IBA and Dip-Gel™ for Rooting Cuttings

IBA is used for plant propagation to stimulate root formation on woody and herbaceous species. IBA is formulated as an alcohol quick dip (e.g. **Dip'N Grow®**) or in talc based products. The IBA in alcohol based products is readily absorbed by plant tissue and can be phototoxic to some plants if the rate is too high. Quick dips dry rapidly and leave less residual IBA on the plant stem. IBA in talc based products is not readily absorbed, so higher IBA rates are generally used.

Dip-Gel™ is a carboxymethyl cellulose based product that when mixed with water is very thick and viscous. Unlike traditional surfactants and oils, **Dip-Gel** does not soften the cuticle to aid the movement of active ingredients into the leaf or stem.

Dip-Gel can be mixed in water which then can be mixed with products containing IBA such as **Dip'N Grow** to produce a rooting gel. Improved rooting and/or lower IBA rates may be possible because this gel clings to the stem of a cutting and provides a reservoir of hormone. Since more material is sticking to the cutting, it may be possible to reduce IBA rates because the cutting is able to absorb hormone from the gel reservoir.

For example, **Dip'N Grow** + Water (1:4) increase the weight of a 3" cutting by 8%. **Dip'N Grow** + **Dip-Gel** (1:4) increase the weight of the same cutting by 31%. This is from the amount of gel sticking to the cutting. An appropriate rate adjustment may be required for IBA sensitive plants when using **Dip-Gel**. **Dip'N Grow** diluted in **Dip-Gel** will remain in solution for several days.

Suggested Rates

Mix 2 tablespoons (10 – 12 grams) of **Dip-Gel** in 1.0 liter warm water and mix or shake vigorously. Let solution stand overnight until **Dip-Gel** is completely dissolved or use blender for quicker results.

Good luck
Happy Propagating!