

## Improving rooting using the Pronto Rapid System

Transplanting and rooting have always come with their own particular challenges, and certain species and varieties offer more hurdles than others. Two crucial tactics can assist growers in successful cutting production:

1. Promoting root establishment
2. Encouraging young plant growth after transplant

Production challenges can come in the form of cultivars that are known to be slow as they continue to grow, even as they root easily. Or, we may see difficulties with varieties that do not initiate the rooting process well. Either way, overcoming these challenges has been a labor-intensive, time-consuming task, not always producing the results growers desire.

Now, instead of dipping cuttings by hand – and accumulating labor costs and sticking time – growers can spray or srench cuttings after sticking. The new Pronto Rapid System is effective in both annuals and perennials, and can be applied just two days after sticking. It has two main components: a new liquid IBA and an IBA-Kinetin-GA combination product. And, it is effective on a variety of plant types, including: herbaceous annuals, herbaceous and hard-to-root perennial plant cuttings, softwood cuttings, woody ornamental cuttings, hardwood cuttings, pot rose cuttings, tropicals and others.

### Promoting Growth and Rooting

IBA (indole-3-butyric acid) has long been used to promote growth and rooting. However, traditionally it has been available in gels or in talc-based formulations, both of which had to be coated around the cutting through manual dipping. A few could be diluted in water, but not very successfully.

Advocate is a new liquid formulation of IBA. It readily mixes in water so that growers can srench or spray cuttings with it within a very short window of sticking. Basal immersion, basal dip or total immersion are all possible with Advocate, allowing growers a flexibility not possible with previous IBA formulations.

### Pushing Plant Growth after Transplant

Products have existed to encourage growth in newly rooted plants that have just been transplanted. However, the challenge has been getting them to grow, but not grow uncontrollably. The new Crest product is a carefully formulated combination of gibberellic acid (GA), IBA and Kinetin. This combination enables growers to control the pace of the plant's growth.

Growers can incorporate Crest via foliar srench or spray, or incorporate it into their irrigation.

### University Testing

Trials across the country at leading horticulture academic institutions show significant increases in:

- root mass
- root number
- root length

Testing covered a wide variety of both perennial and annual species and cultivars, including hard-to-root and those that are tough to grow after transplant.



Figure 1: Abelia 'Kaleidoscope' cuttings on the left are significantly larger than the control on the right. These plants are 20 weeks post-transplant and 16 weeks post their third application of Crest. Applications were made as srenches every two weeks, at a rate of 1 fl.oz./gal. These plants also received two sprays of Advocate at stick and again 10 days post. Application frequency and number will be adjusted per the crop and variety being produced.



In trials with Scaevola 'Blue Fan', researchers noted increased efficacy of IBA with higher spray volumes of Advocate applications. These results were observed in additional instances and trials, and in different species.

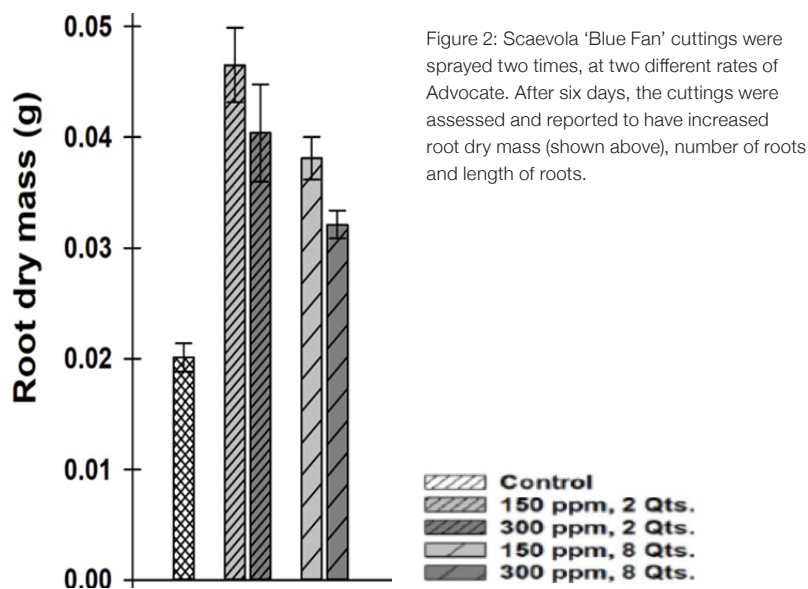


Figure 2: Scaevola 'Blue Fan' cuttings were sprayed two times, at two different rates of Advocate. After six days, the cuttings were assessed and reported to have increased root dry mass (shown above), number of roots and length of roots.

## Implementing in Your Production Plan

Application rates, volume and frequency will vary depending on the crop, location and conditions. We are happy to work with growers to determine the best plan for their unique production environment. This system gives us the flexibility to help growers use Advocate and Crest together or separately, depending on the goals and needs of the plants being propagated.

It is always recommended to test previously untested products on a small group of plants for efficacy and phytotoxicity before applying to a large number of plants. To prevent injury or undesirable results, do not use higher rates than specified on the label.

Growers can tank mix Advocate and Crest with other products typically used in plant production, such as fertilizers, fungicides, insecticides, biostimulants and plant growth regulators, to improve plant health and early growth. Before applying any previously untested tank mix, always test for compatibility before mixing a large quantity.

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