



Flower Petal



Happy Holidays

With 2010 fast coming to a close and a New Year about to begin, TerraLink would like to extend a warm thank you to all of our clients and wish you a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. May 2011 be a successful and prosperous New Year for you all.

Your Floral representative Rene Ashby will very soon be going on maternity leave. Her clients will be well taken care of by Eric Van Steenis and the staff here at TerraLink while she is bonding with her new child. Rene will be in contact over the next year should the need arise and you will see her again as your representative in early 2012. We wish her all the best with this new milestone in her family life.

Spring Bedding Plants

Time to Think Colour!

Growing bedding plants can be a relatively easy way to start a horticultural business or add to an agricultural business. Bedding plants can be a profitable cash crop from spring through fall, but they do require planning and attention to achieve a consistent, high-quality crop. Bedding plants include a wide range of plant species and cultivars. These include herbaceous annuals and perennials, biennials, herbs, ground covers, vegetables, small fruits (strawberry), and a few woody species that die to the ground in the fall.

Many consumers look for something different from their neighbors' plants. Others look for those plants that performed well last year. Consumers often remember which plants did poorly, and they make an effort not to buy them again the next year. So, think consumer and think instant color when planning bedding plant production.

Market Period The largest market period for bedding plants occurs in four to six weeks during the spring. Now is the time to get your site prepared for production. Plan your crop to meet market dates while maintaining quality.

Plan Each Step of Production Follow these 5 steps each year to plan your bedding plant production schedule:

1. Decide who makes up your market.

2. Decide when to market your plants.
3. Select which kinds of plants and which cultivars of those plants to grow.
4. Determine how you will produce them.
5. Calculate at what price to sell them for a profit.

Getting Started Any number of growing structures can be constructed or purchased to suit this need. The level of sophistication required in these structures will depend, in part, on whether or not you plan to grow your own seedlings. Containers, media, fertilizer, growth regulators, and pesticides are also costs to plan for when getting started.

Start from Seeds or Buy Plugs? Plug technology has the following advantages:

1. Reduces the time and labor required for transplanting.
2. Maximizes greenhouse space utilization because seedlings are perfectly spaced.
3. Increases seedling and final crop uniformity.
4. Reduces transplant shock because roots are not disturbed.
5. Reduces the spread of disease because each seedling is isolated.
6. Reduces crop duration because no transplant shock occurs.
7. Mechanizes almost every phase of plug production.
8. Provides an easier & less expensive way to ship seedlings.

The majority of bedding-plant growers utilize plugs for finish production. However, a major production

decision is whether to buy plugs from specialist plug growers or to invest in the equipment and skill needed to grow plugs in-house. Much of this decision involves comparing the cost of buying plugs versus producing plugs. The advantage of buying plugs, especially for the new grower, is the elimination of the germination and early seedling growth stages, which can be costly and have greater risk of crop loss.

Plug Media A medium for plug flats must have a small particle size and like other container media, must have good aeration, be well drained yet have a high water & fertilizer holding capacity because of the small soil volume of each cell and the fact that seedlings may be grown in the medium for 4 to 8 weeks. Peat, vermiculite, and perlite are the most commonly used components, but finer grades are employed.

Growing Media On face value, commercially bagged mixes seem expensive but once all the costs are considered, mixing your own formulation may be out of the question for most small growers. Like many economic decisions in the greenhouse, carefully consider all the costs of both approaches. Regardless, make sure that the medium comes from a reliable source so that there are few weed seeds and potential for insect or disease problems. Fertilizer and other components should be well blended to ensure a medium that is uniform throughout the batch and from bag to bag.

Growth Regulators These are often applied to plug-grown seedlings to decrease internode elongation and to strengthen the stems. Though many label directions recommend application 2 to 3 weeks after sowing, it's best to apply growth regulators at the correct stage of development.

Finishing Growing-on or finishing refers to the stage of production from transplanting into the final container until the crop reaches a marketable stage.

Ensure you have a sufficient quantity of growing media for your pots, plus trays and flats to ship and market your plants. Given a choice, select the largest feasible market pack to accommodate the root system of the bedding plants to be grown.

Fertilizers Moderation is the key to successful bedding-plant fertilization. Bedding plants should be provided all 16 essential elements either from the liquid fertilization program and/or incorporation at the time the medium is mixed. Most growers use a combination of both.

Insect Pests It is important to regularly check crops for insect and disease problems. Problems identified early are easier and more economical to control. Remove weeds under the benches and around greenhouses to eliminate a major source of insect pests. Weeds are a great hiding and feeding place for many insects, especially whiteflies and aphids, before infesting crop plants.



Disease Control One of the greatest disease problems, root rot, is caused by a group of fungi. Symptoms of this kind of disease are a general lack of vigor or growth, slow growth, and especially black roots or a blackening of the crown. These symptoms can be caused by any one or more of these fungi: Pythium, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia, or Thielaviopsis. It is important for growers to watch crops carefully, especially at the earliest stages for these symptoms. Immediately after transplanting, the plants should be watered thoroughly and moved to the greenhouse. As a preventive measure, some plants may be watered with a drench of fungicide to prevent these damping-off diseases.

For Sale Reducing the night temperature and reducing the amount of fertilizer will produce a bedding plant that lasts longer when it is taken from the greenhouse. Lengthening the post-harvest life of the bedding plant makes it look better in the sales area and keeps it looking good until the consumer can plant it. In the sales area, shade the bedding plants somewhat from direct sun. This helps to prevent them from drying out and to keep good flower color. Growing bedding plants to produce beautiful colors for consumers' homes is as much an art as a science. With careful planning and scheduling along with all the necessary grower resources you are on your way to beautify your neighborhood.



Innovation

Giving you the Latest Products

We have an expanding line of custom products from Asia to suit any grower preference. Terralink Horticulture Inc. in association with a major International Plastics Company founded in 1975 will now retail a variety of horticulture products.

- Vacuum Formed (including polystyrene)
- Pressure Formed
- Blow Formed
- Injection Formed
- Extrusion Formed Products (fine sheets, foam board, and up to 7 layer multi-layered sheets)
- Only recycled material is used in order to minimize wastes. Environmentally friendly approach.
- Finished like food packaging products – glossy surface; easy to de-stack.
- Different weights for user's preference – light weight for single use, heavy gauge for multi use
- Punched drain holes
- Grooved cavities – prevent root spinning
- We can and will customize if needed

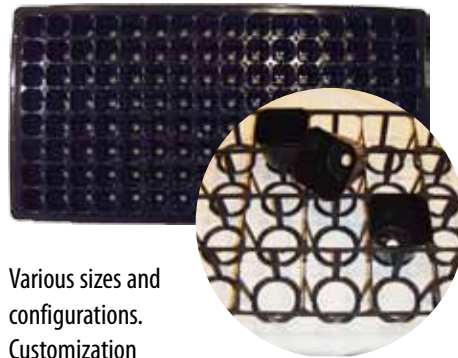
From pots to trays to bamboo, we have the grower supplies you need to assist you in producing and marketing a quality product.

Bamboo



Our bamboo products are CFIA approved with phyto-sanitary certificates for every shipment. Our supplier will make custom designs, styles and colors to suit any grower preference. Contact us with your preferred style.

Trays



Various sizes and configurations. Customization available.



Ecological Pots (E-Pots)

Our E-pots are becoming more popular as growers see the merit of a biodegradable alternative to hard plastic plant pots. Studies show that shoppers will pay more for sustainable flower pots. Under normal use, these pots maintain their structural integrity for a pre-programmed time interval (2-5 years) and then begin the breakdown process into environmentally inert products. Several shapes, sizes and colours are available to fit your existing program. There is no need for specialized equipment to make the switch to "green" technology. If you don't see the pot you are looking for on our website, please contact us with a few details of your needs.



Tower Bales

Coming in early 2011 we will be supplying the 110 cubic feet peat moss bales – 48" deep, 40.5" wide with height of 98". For users of large volumes of peat, this is a perfect option. Loose volume per bale is about 220 cubic feet.



New Chemistry coming to Canada in 2011

Plant Growth Regulators

Controlling plant height and growth habits are essential aspects of producing greenhouse crops. Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are often used to suppress stem extension and produce a more compact, higher quality plant. Plant hormones and growth regulators are chemicals that affect flowering, aging, root growth, distortion and killing of leaves, stems, and other parts; prevention or promotion of stem elongation; color enhancement of fruit; prevention of leafing and/or leaf fall; and many other conditions. Very small concentrations of these substances produce major growth changes.

Hormones are produced naturally by plants, while plant growth regulators are applied to plants by humans. Plant growth regulators may be synthetic compounds that mimic naturally occurring plant hormones, or they may be natural hormones that were extracted from plant tissue.

Applied concentrations of these substances usually are measured in parts per million (ppm) and in some cases parts per billion (ppb). These growth-regulating substances most often are applied as a spray to foliage or as a liquid drench to soil around a plant's base. Generally, their effects are short lived, and they may need to be reapplied in order to achieve the desired effect.

Available exclusively from TerraLink Horticulture are three effective PGR's from Fine Americas Inc.

 configure®

Coming in early 2011, Configure is all new PGR Chemistry and exclusive to TerraLink Horticulture. Configure is the only pure 6-BA (6-Benzylaminopurine) plant growth regulator. It helps plants to remain green and retards aging.

Biological Product Guide

With many consumers preferring less pesticide use, bio-controls are becoming the environmentally friendly alternative to controlling pests in turf, ornamentals, nursery and greenhouse crops. For copies of our Biological Product Guide, please contact lisa@tlhort.com.

It was widely used in agriculture and horticulture to increase lateral / basal branching and increase flowering.

It is a kind of broad-spectrum, high-efficiency, low-toxicity, low-residual plant growth regulator which can be used almost during the whole life of the plants in seed-dipper, irrigation, bud-sprinkle and leaf-spraying. It can accelerate cell division, break the dormant obstacle and promote germination, lateral bud emergence, increase the ratio of fruit-setting and improve the fruits shape.

 piccolo®

Piccolo, a high purity paclobutrazol (PBZ) growth regulator, produces more compact, sturdier plants with a deeper color. It has a flexible application by spray or drench and is labeled for a wide variety of ornamental plants. It acts by inhibiting gibberellin biosynthesis, reducing internodal growth to give stouter stems, increasing root growth, causing early fruitset and increasing seed set in plants. Foliar application is mostly ineffective. Seeds can be soaked with PBZ to reduce seedling growth.



 dazide®

Dazide 85 WSG is a newer daminozide plant growth regulator that stimulates enhanced foliage color and increased flower production. Assists in managing growth by ensuring more compact and sturdier plants that cope better with transportation and transplanting. Affects flower bud initiation, fruit-set maturity, fruit firmness and coloring, preharvest drop and market quality of fruit at harvest and during storage. It is currently registered only for use on ornamental and bedding plants.

Contact your sales rep for more information on these products that improve your plant's appearance and marketability at an exceptional value.

Watch for our
Spring 2011
NEW
PRODUCTS
Catalogue!
www.tlhort.com