

Florel Drenches for Hyacinth Height Control

William B. Miller
Department of Horticulture
Cornell University
Ithaca NY 14853
wbm8@cornell.edu
www.flowerbulbs.cornell.edu

In 2011 and 2012, we trialed Florel drenches as a new method of height control for hyacinths and daffodils. Florel sprays have been used on hyacinths for years, but growers often report inconsistent results from sprays. Florel drenches are a very new concept in floriculture, and our results have been very good, and possibly better than other methods currently in use. Florel drenches are not labeled for use on bulb crops, and we therefore cannot recommend their use. The purpose of this publication is to highlight some of our results and to potentially stimulate interest in a registration for this purpose.

Some highlights:

- Our work shows that Florel drenches can be a useful method of height control in pot hyacinth.
- Effective drench rates have been in the range of 200-600 ppm. Most of our work has been in in 4” pots, with 2 ounces of drench solution per pot.
- With hyacinth, there were no unusual effects on flowering or flower longevity seen as a result of the Florel drench treatments.
- We have generally seen more pronounced results from later forcings than earlier forcings. This might be related to greenhouse or soil temperature, but more work is needed to clarify this effect.
- In a trial with prepared hyacinths, rates in the 100 ppm range were excellent. See photo of ‘Blue Pearl’, ‘Pink Pearl’ and ‘White Pearl’. Bear in mind that prepared hyacinths are forced warmer than “regular hyacinths”.
- There are hyacinth cultivar differences in response to Florel drenches.
- Overall, Florel drenches may prove to be a valid height control method for hyacinths, but more research will be needed to work out details on temperature and timing effects.



'Pink Pearl', 15 cold weeks, in greenhouse 24 January Left to right: Control, 150, 300, 450, 600 ppm Florel drench. Expt. 2012-H2, Set 1. Image 4401.



'Pink Pearl', 18.5 cold weeks, in greenhouse 2 March. Left to right: Control, 150, 300, 450, 600 ppm Florel drench. Expt. 2012-H2, Set 2. Image 0627.



'Aiolos', 15 cold weeks, in greenhouse 24 January Left to right: Control, 150, 300, 450, 600 ppm Florel drench Expt. 2012-H2, Set 1. Image 4773.



Effect of Florel drenches on early forced, *prepared* 'Blue Pearl', 'Pink Pearl' and 'White Pearl' hyacinths. 10 cold weeks, forced starting 30 November at 74F constant temperature. L to R: control, 25, 100, 250, 500 ppm Florel drench. Image 5925.