

GERANIUM (*Pelargonium xhortorum* “Pink expectation”
Botrytis Blight; *Botrytis cinerea*)

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EVALUATION OF FUNGICIDES IN MANAGING BOTRYTIS BLIGHT OF GERANIUM.

Geranium “Pink Expectation” seedlings were transplanted on 4 Nov into 10 – cm plastic pots containing a soilless medium (Baccto Professional Planting Mix, Michigan Peat Company, Houston, TX). Plants were fertilized twice weekly with 200 ppm Peter’s 20-20-0 liquid feed (Grace-Sierra Horticultural Products Company, Milpitas, CA). Temperatures ranged from a low of 18 °C at night to a high of 30 °C during the day. Six replicates per treatment with one plant per replicate were arranged in a completely randomized block design. *Botrytis cinerea* cultures were grown on potato dextrose agar for four weeks. Plates were flooded with sterile distilled water, and scraped with a sterile spatula to dislodge spores. Liquid from the plates was strained through cheesecloth, and diluted to 1.0×10^4 spores/ml. Plants were sprayed with the *B. cinerea* inoculum to runoff on 13, 18 and 27 Jan, and Feb. Plants were placed for the duration of the experiment under plastic tent in the greenhouse with a cool temperature humidifier that operated for 30 minutes every hour. Treatments were applied beginning 6 Jan through 3 Mar with a hand pump sprayer. The numbers of total leaves, diseased leaves, and leaves with sporulating *Botrytis* was counted on 22 Jan, 3 and 16 Feb, and 3 Mar.

Statistical differences were noted on 3 and 16 Feb when all fungicide treatments had significantly fewer sporulating leaves (%) than the untreated control.