



plant potential

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL GROWER

Calliope® Geranium PGR Recommendations

By Karl Trellinger, Technical Service Representative, Syngenta Flowers, Inc.



Well grown Calliope® **geranium** baskets and containers enjoy exceptional retail sell-through because of its excellent vigor, great mounding habit and vibrant color. As a vigorous geranium, Calliope easily develops large foliage and stretchy petioles. It is critical to grow Calliope with sufficient space, good light conditions, adequate fertilization and proper growth regulation.

Like other vigorous geraniums, Calliope responds well to early Florel™ plant growth regulator treatments, which ensure maximum branching, short petioles and small leaf size. We recommend a Florel spray of 350 ppm when the roots are established in the pot and the plants are starting to grow, which is usually about seven to 14 days after planting. Make one to two repeat applications

every seven days. Gallon and basket crops usually do well with two Florel sprays. To get the full effect of Florel, it is critical to have warm soil temperatures of at least 68°F.

Keep in mind that Florel regulator works best when the pH of the water is adjusted to 5.0 to 5.5 before adding Florel and spray early morning on plants that have been fertilized the day before. Apply the last Florel at least six weeks before sale as it delays flowering. Under dark and cool conditions the delay can be as much as eight weeks, so



plant potential

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL GROWER



make sure to provide adequate light conditions and night temperatures of at least 65°F. If flower timing is a concern apply Cycocel™ plant growth regulator at 1000 ppm four and 10 days after the first Florel application.

After the initial Florel application, spray Cycocel at 1000 ppm as needed under moderate climate conditions. Under hot conditions, a spray application of 1000 ppm Cycocel plus B-Nine® at 2500 ppm or Bonzi® at 5 ppm are recommended. We highly recommend the

evaluation of possible growth regulator treatments weekly as Calliope can stretch quickly during warm days.

In cases where Calliope geraniums are grown in 4.5 inch pots, it is absolutely critical that the plants are adequately spaced and receive sufficient light. Apply one Florel application at 350 ppm about 10 days after planting and if needed a weekly Cycocel application at 1000 ppm works well.

When strong plants with a healthy root system are about three weeks away from being finished but need a growth regulation, a 0.1 ppm Bonzi drench works well. A low rate often is sufficient; if needed, repeat 10 days later. Be careful to not over apply the Bonzi regulator or drench too early, as plants get clubby and do not easily outgrow stunting.

[Click here for more culture information on Calliope.](#)