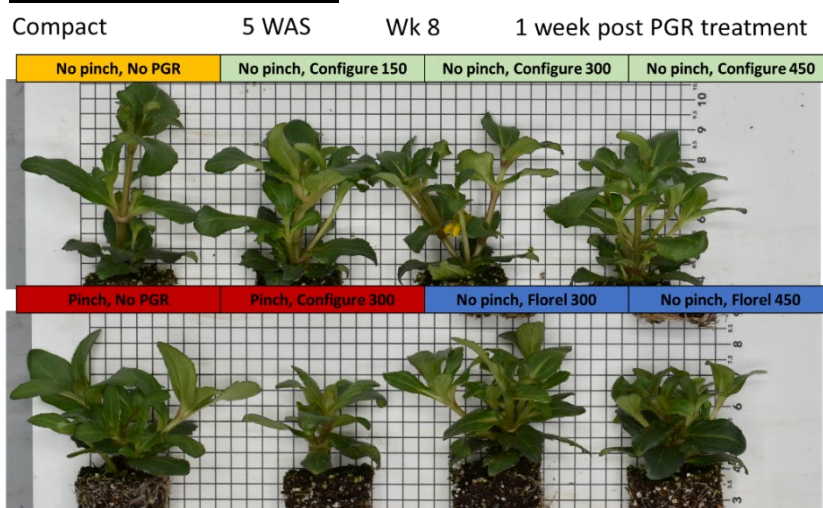


NO-PINCH TECHNIQUES FOR YOUNG PLANTS

Pinching liners is a common practice, but also an additional production cost and a potential route of disease transmission. Recently, interest has grown in “no-pinch” techniques. Plant growth regulators with active ingredients including ethephon have often been used to chemically “pinch” or induce branching. Products containing cytokinins like benzyladenine, a phytohormone, can also induce lateral branching and have traditionally been used in *Echinacea* and *Hosta*. Products containing cytokinin are also associated with high incidence of phytotoxicity, limiting their use in young plant production.

The following information is a culmination of research on no-pinch techniques using plant growth regulators. The following image is an example of the effects observed in response to the various plant growth regulators and rates applied in the studies.

Sanvitalia Tsavo Compact



Methods

Application volume: 0.5 gal per 100 sq ft

Application timing: Roots reach cell edge, sometimes in place of pinch or 1 week post-pinch

Tray size: 102-cell tray for all annual species, 72-cell tray for perennial species

Plants from all treatments were grown out in 4” containers to evaluate treatment effects on finished plant quality (pot fill and flower date).

Trials were implemented between Weeks 5 and 20 between 2023 and 2025 under supplemental lighting with an average DLI of 5-8 mols/day.

These trials were conducted under specific conditions and are not all encompassing of environmental conditions or cultural practices. Read all labels and trial small groups prior to implementing these techniques on a commercial scale.

Crop	Variety	Beneficial product and rates	Notes
Agastache	Summerlong	Mixed results Trial Configure 200-400 ppm	Some instances of phyto on Magenta. Avoid surfactants like Capsil which can contribute to phyto.
Angelonia	AngelDance	Post pinch application Configure 150-300 ppm	Pinch required Configure improved the number of highly branched liners
Buddleia	Chrysalis	No benefit	Configure induced branching but also severe stunting
Calibrachoa	Multiple	Configure/Florel 150/600 ppm Weekly (x2-3) application of Florel 600 ppm	No-pinch can lead to one-directional growth (pyramid look) which may not work well for small containers but will work well for combinations. Not all varieties benefit. Do not apply to Conga or other low vigor series and varieties.
Coreopsis	Uptick	Configure 400 ppm	Tank mix Configure with low rate Daminozide (<2500 ppm) may be needed.
Delosperma	Ocean Sunset	Configure 400-600 ppm	
Euphorbia	Breathless	No benefit	Pinch
Fuchsia	Bellinto	No benefit	Pinch
Helichrysum	Silver Ribbons	Configure 150 ppm	Pinch did not provide additional benefit
Helichrysum	Silver Threads	No benefit	Pinch did not provide additional benefit
Lantana	Little Lucky	No benefit	Pinch
Lantana	Purple Falls	Configure 500 ppm	Pinch 1 week before Configure. Augeo (Dikegulacsodium) may have a positive effect.

Crop	Variety	Beneficial product and rates	Notes
Lantana	Passionfruit	Augeo (Dikegulacsodium) 800 ppm or Florel 500 ppm Configure 500-1000 ppm also had some benefit	Reapplication 7 to 14 days post-transplant is additionally beneficial.
Muehlenbeckia		Configure 300-450 ppm	Pinch after Configure application
Nemesia	Aromatica	Florel 600 ppm	Trial tank mix with Daminozide
Nepeta	Blue Prelude, Purple Prelude Junior Walker	No benefit	
Penstemon	Rock Candy Mountain Sweets Summit Treats	No benefit	
Sanvitalia	Tsavo Compact	Configure 150 ppm or Florel 150-300 ppm	Florel did cause some stunting and delay in growth at 300 ppm Tank mix Configure with low rate Daminozide (<2500 ppm) may be needed.
Sanvitalia	Tsavo Basket	No benefit	Pinch
Verbena	Beats	Configure 150 ppm Florel 300-450 ppm	Only slight benefit compared to no pinch Florel was highly effective at eliminating flowers in liner tray.
Verbena	Firehouse	Configure 450 ppm	Tank mix Configure with low rate Daminozide (<2500 ppm) may be needed.
Verbena	Endurascape	No benefit	
Disclaimer: These trials were conducted across 2023 – 2025 under specific conditions and are not all encompassing of environmental conditions or cultural practices. Read all labels and trial small groups prior to implementing these techniques on a commercial scale.			

The verbal and written technical recommendations of Ball Horticultural Company, including but not limited to crop culture, sanitation, IPM, and environmental controls are provided by Ball without any representation or warranty of any type, expressed or implied.