Crop Maintenance Activities: Pinching

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Topics

- Manual pinching
  - Techniques
  - Timing
- Chemical pinching

Manual Pinching


Pinching

- Removal of growing point
- Encourages lateral branching, full plant

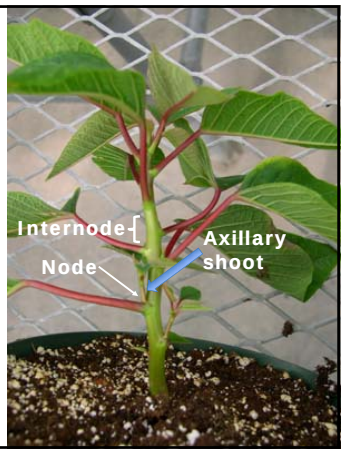
Photo by Chris Catanzaro

- Influences plant shape and fullness
- Many smaller inflorescences are produced instead of one larger one

After pinch

Nodes & Internodes

- Nodes
  - Leaf
  - Axillary bud
- Internodes
  - Extension makes plants taller



Pinch just above a node

- Take care to avoid damaging the small, axillary bud

Counting nodes

- Pinch to leave ~ 5 to 8 nodes, fewer than shown here
- Consistency important

Soft pinch

Hard pinch

- Leave enough foliage to support the growth of the axillary breaks

Parallel to "survival shoot" concept

Impact on crop loss

66% shrinkage vs. 3% shrinkage

How to pinch

- Consider
  - Species
  - Length of production cycle
  - Desired affect on plant architecture

When to pinch

- Pinch when roots reach the edge of the pot

When to pinch

- Pinch in plug or liner tray after root system is well-established

When to pinch

Automated Trimming

Flats in

Flats out

Chemical pinching

Two key chemicals:

- Ethephon
  - Florel™
  - Pistill™
- Dikegulac-sodium
  - Augeo™
  - Atrimmec™

Keep in mind…

- Timing
- Application rate
- Crop sensitivity

Chemical pinching

Augeo™ applied as 400 ppm foliar spray 1-day before transplanting well-rooted cuttings

e-GRO Electronic Grower Resources Online

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