

# FLOWER MELTDOWN *Control Strategies*

Petunia Flower Meltdown has been a subject of recent study at the University of Florida supported by the American Floral Endowment and recently written up by Terri Nell in Grower Talks. Petunia Flower Meltdown is damage observed after transporting market ready flowers to retail via long truck deliveries.

Often, flowers that left the grower in prime condition either arrive damaged or soon exhibit wilting, fading, dropping or Botrytis infected blooms. The ultimate cause of this damage is likely ethylene gas produced by the flowers themselves as a result of self pollination aided by the vibration during truck delivery. Botrytis then sets in on the compromised flowers.

Ethylene is a naturally occurring plant hormone produced by all plants in the form of a gas. It is produced by fruits, flowers, bacteria and engine exhaust. As a plant hormone it has influence on flower initiation, fruit ripening, flower and leaf drop, and even flower and leaf death. Ethylene gas concentrations as low as 100ppb can cause damage to flowers. Longer duration exposure and higher temperatures can increase damage.

Sensitivity to ethylene can vary by species. Some species more sensitive are impatiens, petunia, verbenas, salvia, geranium, lily, rose, orchid, begonia, cyclamen. Ethylene Action Inhibitors like 1-MCP – EthylBloc, have been proven to help decrease damage to floral crops during shipment. EthylBloc ships as a powder which is then diluted into a liquid which then releases a gas that blocks ethylene from binding to the flower. EthylBloc is non-toxic and easily disposed of.

## *BFG Recommends...*

### **EthylBloc Truck Kit - 38 Gram (1/2 Truck)**

SM5FL9038K



### **EthylBloc Truck Kit - 75 Gram**

SM5FL9075



### **EthylBloc Sachet 2.5 gram 1000/cs**

Drop Ship Only



No EthylBloc



With EthylBloc

Always read and follow label directions before applying any pesticide and follow state and local regulations.

## **For more information or to place an order**

Please contact your BFG Sales Representative or our Customer Service Team!

