



## Solatrol

The Solatrol Field Cover film alters the ratio of red to far red light reaching the crop by absorbing light in the far red wavelength, removing the mechanism which can promote elongation and so reducing or eliminating the need for chemical growth regulators.

Early trials have shown very positive results in a wide range of decorative plants grown under Solatrol film, where they benefited from a generally improved quality, reduced plant height and increased branching and leaf area.

As part of a DTI/EPSRC sponsored LINK Project at the University of Reading (UK), a number of experiments have been carried out aiming to quantify the effects of this growth control film on decorative plants, including Chrysanthemum, Eustoma, Nicotianas and Pansies. Although plant responses varied throughout the species, the use of the film was shown to significantly reduce plant height in most plants offering growers an alternative to the use of chemical plant growth regulators. Other plant responses included delayed flowering in some species, e.g. Antirrhinums and Petunias, which presents growers with the opportunity to control the flowering time.

### Crop Responses to Solatrol

The research behind the development of Solatrol won the prestigious 1998 Science into Practice awards made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, UK.

Early trials provided an extremely positive response which show that Solatrol can improve the quality of a wide range of decorative plants.

Key benefits observed include:

- Increase in the leaf area
- Increase in the number of leaves
- Increase in branching
- Greener leaves

A DTI/EPSRC sponsored LINK Project at the University of Reading demonstrated the control of plant height over a range of decorative plants, including Chrysanthemum, Eustoma and Pansy, although the responses of different plant types varied, as with any horticultural treatment. Growth control has been demonstrated in commercial growing conditions with Pansy and other plants.

# Getting light, right.



With some plant species, the flowering of the plant can be delayed. This gives the growers the opportunity to control the flowering time so that good quality plants in bud can be delivered to the customer.

The detailed studies also compared the quality of Petunia and Antirrhinum grown under Solatrol and a conventional greenhouse film.

The impressive results included a 180 per cent increase in leaf area on a test sample of Petunia and a 35 per cent increase in the number of flowers on Antirrhinum when grown under Solatrol.

	Solatrol	No film	%change
Leaf area (sq.cm)	677	441	+180
Plant dry weight (g)	2	0.6	+230
No. of branches	7.1	1.3	+480
Leaf area (sq.cm)	53.5	42.1	+27
Plant dry weight (g)	60.2	31.3	+92
Branches weight (g)	31.3	20.6	+52

Property	Specification
Thickness (µm)	150
Light Transmission (%)	83
Diffusion (%)	20
Thermicity (%)	65
Elongation MD (%)	450
Impact Strength (g)	>450
Yield Strength (Mpa)	8.5
UV Level	5 Season
Manufacture Guarantee*	5 Season

\*Manufacture guarantee is region dependent. Enquire with technical team for details.