

New Natural IPM Products

Gro-Mate® is a natural humate formed from the decomposition of organic matter, which helps plants resist attack by the *Pythium* fungus. Humate Canada Ltd. lists the following associated advantages: increases the cation exchange capacity of the growing medium and stimulates beneficial microbe activity in the rhizosphere, resulting in more and larger roots. Research at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton found that seedlings of 6 conifers showed increased height, caliper, and shoot-to-root ratio compared to a control. For more information, contact Bob Cantwell at Tel: 403-246-1688.

Yuccah® Concentrate is derived from the *Yucca schidigera* plant which grows in the deserts of western North America and is advertised as a "safe, natural surfactant and biological catalyst". Yuccah® is a water soluble liquid that, when injected in standard irrigation or added to spray mixes, improves the spray coverage of aqueous solutions and aids in the penetration of soluble fertilizers and pesticides. Being completely nonphytotoxic to plants, even when overapplied or applied in hot weather, it provides an alternative to inorganic chemical surfactants which can burn sensitive seedling foliage, especially when applied under high stress conditions. Yuccah® is compatible with all soluble fertilizers and pesticides, and stays in solution without agitation, but requires an antifoam agent. This product would be a welcome addition to IPM programs, because it is advertised as being nontoxic to humans and animals; therefore, it is exempt from worker safety and pesticide regulations. For more information, contact:

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