Commercial Jasmonate-Containing Spray

Several years ago, we noted research findings that naturally occurring chemicals known as jasmonates are capable of enhancing plant performance. Now New Biology, Inc. (1031 Edwards Rd., Burlingame, CA 94010, web site www.jazsprays.com, phone 650-685-6510) is marketing Jaz™, a jasmonate-based spray specifically for roses. From the New Biology web site:

> Jaz™ Rose Spray contains a natural compound called dihydrojasmonate (MDHJ). In fact, most if not all plants contain MDHJ and other similar jasmonate compounds that are critical for normal plant development and performance. Some of the more important functions in which jasmonates are required include plant fertility, floral scent production, attraction of beneficial insects, disease [resistance], and tolerance to other common environmental stresses.
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> New Biology scientists, in cooperation with university researchers, discovered that when MDHJ is sprayed onto plant leaves, many natural compounds are produced throughout the plant ... that increase environmental stress tolerance. This also results in improved foliage and bloom characteristics. Experiments show that, compared to untreated plants, MDHJ-treated plants produce higher levels of certain proteins and antioxidants that contribute to increased natural disease resistance and tolerance to salty soil, drought, and cold temperatures.
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> Based on these findings, New Biology developed a proprietary formulation, Jaz™ Rose Spray, to provide gardeners with an easy-to-use product that provides the positive plant growth and strengthening benefits of MDHJ. Jaz™ Rose Spray additionally contains potassium and phosphorus, nutrients also essential for optimal bloom performance and disease resistance. Rigorous testing confirmed Jaz™ Rose Spray efficacy in typical garden settings.

Jaz™ Rose Spray is available in either concentrate or ready-to-use form at the New Biology web site, with the following benefits claimed:

- Builds natural resistance to common causes of stress: drought, cold, salt, and disease
- Promotes vigorous rose bushes
- Encourages blooming
- Easy-to-use, safe and effective
- Biodegradable
- Provides supplemental nutrients

If you use Jaz™ on your roses, please let us know about the results.

Bellflowers Evaluated at the Chicago Botanic Garden

Between 1998 and 2006, many bellflowers (**Campanula** species) were grown at the Chicago Botanic Garden (U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone 5b, American Horticultural Society Plant Heat-Zone 5) in order "to recommend outstanding **Campanula** for northern gardens." The plants were grown in full sun with open exposure to the wind. The soil was clay loam amended with composted leaves (pH 7.4 throughout the trial) with good drainage, although sometimes there was "excessive moisture for short periods." Maintenance was minimal, with no fertilizer and no chemical pesticides applied; irrigation was given when needed, and a mulch of shredded leaves and wood chips was applied to aid weed control and to help retain soil moisture.

The table below and on the next page includes all bellflowers that survived throughout the trial; several others (listed in the reference given below) died before the end of the trial. Only about half of the surviving bellflowers exhibited good overall ratings for health and vigor, and just one cultivar, 'Sarastro', received an excellent overall rating. In general, **C. glomerata**, **C.**