



**Research File: Sustane® 8-4-4
Fertility Trial, Vinca (*Catharanthus
roseus* 'Coral White')**
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Due to increased environmental awareness and escalating costs of quality control release fertilizers greenhouse production is in need of alternative nutrient sources, preferably derived from sustainable resources. Therefore, Sustane® 8-4-4, an all natural fertilizer made from aerobically composted turkey litter was evaluated for use on 'Coral White' vinca. The trial compared Sustane 8-4-4(45 day) to two industry-leading control release fertilizers, a 13-13-13(T70) and a 14-14-14(3-4 mo.). Each fertilizer was incorporated at a rate of 0.85 pounds of nitrogen per cubic yard. The potting medium was a 50:40:10 mix (by volume) of pine bark, peat and perlite.



The trial was performed in Rydal, GA during the summer of 2008, picture taken at trial initiation.

Picture taken at 27 days after planting.



Sustane	Standard	Standard
8-4-4	13-13-13	14-14-14

At 42 days after planting shoot fresh weight of vinca grown with Sustane 8-4-4 was 14.6 grams compared to 17.8 and 16.3 grams for plants grown with the standard 13-13-13 and 14-14-14 control release fertilizers, respectively. Quality ratings of plants grown with Sustane 8-4-4 taken at 8, 15, 22, 29 and 36 days after planting were equal to the quality ratings of plants grown with the standard 13-13-13 and 14-14-14 control release fertilizers. At 36 days after planting bloom count was similar for all three fertilizers.

Conclusions: For all parameters measured 'Coral White' vinca bedding plant material grown with Sustane 8-4-4 performed equal to plants grown with either of the two control release fertilizers with an N-P-K ratio of 1-1-1. The trial results show Sustane 8-4-4 can provide greenhouse growers with the same performance as current industry-leading synthetic control release fertilizers.