





## **Horticultural Consultants**

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## **Tetrazolium**

Tetrazolium is used to test seed viability. Viable seeds turn pink and non-viable seeds remain unchanged when soaked in a solution.

In the spring plants are often dispatched without knowing if the root system has been damaged by the frost or not. In the case of evergreens the plant may not tell you it has died until your customer has sold it. Tetrazolium can be used to test if roots are alive with a reasonable degree of success.

Chop up small roots, including root hairs and place in a dry saucer or petri dish. Mix 0.2g of Tetrazolium salt into 100 ml of water and store in the dark. Pour the mixture into the saucer and leave for 1 - 2 hours. If the roots are alive they will turn pink, if not they will stay the same colour.

Tetrazolium can be obtained from Dove Associates.