How Many Rows Wide Should You Plant?

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The wider the benches the greater the productive area but not necessarily is the production per square foot of area increased over narrower benches. During the past year, pompon sprays of the variety Constellation were grown in a 40 inch bench with five rows in the bench. The spacing in the row was 9 inches. The outside rows were pruned to 4 stems per plant and the inside rows were allowed to develop only 3 stems per plant.

The production of a block of four rows across the bench was analyzed. Each spray cut from the plants was weighed and the results tabulated.

The table shows the heaviest stems were produced on the outside rows and the average weight of each stem was 15 to 25 per cent greater on the outside rows. The two outside rows produced a total weight of 67 ounces, while the three middle rows produced a total of 58 ounces. The average weight of stem on the two outside rows was 2.05 and 2.17 ounces while the three middle rows averaged 1.44, 1.65, and 1.75 ounces, respectively.

Would narrower benches and more walks produce more flowers in a house?

Weight of Pompon Sprays from Inside and Outside Rows

Variety...... Constellation
Spacing..... 8" x 9"
Number Stems.... 4 - outside rows
3 - inner rows

| N | 5 | x | x | x | x | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| A | 4 | x | x | x | x | |
| | 3 | x | x | x | x | |
| | 2 | x | x | x | x | |
| | 1 | x | x | x | x | |

| Row | No. Stems | Heaviest Stem | Lightest Av. Stem Weight | Total Weight |
|--------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1 2 3 | 16 12 12 | 3 1/4 oz. 2 1/8 2 5/8 | 1 1/4 oz. 2.05 5/8 1.44 1/4(Blind) 1.65 3/4(Next) | 32.62 17.37 19.87 |
| 4 5 | 12 16 | 2 5/8 3 1/2 | 3/4 1.75 5/8 2.17 | 21.00 34.75 |

GUTTER