



Improving old favorites

STABY

by Teresa Aimone

Carnations and chrysanthemums are the familiar standbys of cut flower growers and retail florists. And, over the past few years, both growers and florists have been deluged with information on cut flowers that are either unique to this country (alstroemerias), or are enjoying another rise in popularity (stocks and lilies). In any industry, the customers enjoy something new.

Tom Finley, Yoder Canada, spoke at the Canadian Greenhouse Conference on new varieties of cut mums and carnations. These new introductions aren't likely to knock gerberas or alstroemerias out of the marketplace, but they should provide a nice change and improvement on older varieties of mums and carnations. Growers who want to try out these new varieties shouldn't plant their entire production area in the new item—just try out a few beds first to get used to the different growing techniques required.

Carnations

Tom talked about 19 new carnation varieties. Many of these have been developed by Dr. Leonard Carrier. As Tom said, Dr. Carrier was a commercial carnation grower for many years in Encinitas, California. Dr. Carrier is now semi-retired and has turned his energy to breeding carnations that are tolerant, not resistant, to fusarium wilt. "Dr. Carrier's varieties are susceptible to fusarium wilt, but they are not as severely affected as the Sim family is," Tom explained. Carnation growers who have had experience with fusarium wilt in their ranges should take a look at these Carrier selections.

Standards: Carrier Fiesta was the fastest flowering carnation in all of the Yoder trials. The flowers are tangerine orange with dark pink markings—and, Tom stated, the color has good retention under high light and high temperatures. The flowers are large, and growth habit is medium to tall. This variety requires deeper cutting than Sim varieties—cutting deeper will prevent overcropping and weakening the plant. As the name implies, this is a Carrier introduction, and, therefore, tolerant to fusarium wilt.

Big Red is another Carrier introduction. The me-

dium-sized red flowers have been found to vary somewhat in form, and, under low light conditions, the flowers may turn orange. To obtain maximum production from this variety, growers need to cut higher than on a Sim variety. At present, Tom said, Yoder is selecting clones of the best flowers.

White Melody is generally a slower grower than Improved White Sim, except during the summer months. The overall height is 6" to 8" shorter than the Sim variety. Growers should cut high on the first cut only, then deeper on later production. White Melody is another Carrier introduction. Melody has the same characteristics as White Melody except it is lavender rose pink.

Sandra has a dusty lavender color—not available in the Sim family, Tom said. The stems are thin, but wiry, and cuts need to be taken high to maintain good breaking action and obtain good production. Response is slower than Sims, plant height is medium to tall, and flowers are medium-sized. This variety was developed by Sapia of Italy.

Baranna Soana is a smooth-edged, light pink sport of Barlo II Nora. It exhibits good production with strong stems and large flowers. The color is approximately the same as Crowleys Pink Sim and shows little fading during the summer. Good temperature control is important with this variety—the calyxes will split if wide fluctuations occur.

Miniatures: Doria and Corrida have the same color combination as the variety Pink Ice—pink and white. Doria has deeply serrated petals and a high-crowned, fully petalled flower. Growth habit is tall. Response is slower than a Sim. Under low-light conditions, Doria will reflex, and the calyx will be hidden by the petals. Corrida has smooth-edged petals and a carnation-type flower form. Flowers are large. Growers should get good breaking action from this variety. Response time is the same as Doria. Corrida was developed by Nobba, and Doria by Baratta—both in Italy.

Felicia has deep magenta/purple flowers, and the color retains well. The flowers will not burn under high temperatures, and Felicia exhibits very little splitting. This carnation is a slow-grower at first, but, after the first cut, the plant will catch up. Felicia is a Carrier introduction.

The 9-week daisy Heithom has excellent keeping qualities and less foliar breakdown in the bucket.

Plot is recommended for April through November flowering. Plants exhibit good high and low temperature tolerance.

Aimone, T '84

Barsemi Yasmina may be the next replacement for the familiar variety, Orchid Beauty. The color of this new introduction is slightly lighter than Orchid Beauty, but the response time is much shorter and the productivity is much higher. Barsemi Yasmina is 6" to 8" shorter than Orchid Beauty.

Derby was developed by Sapia of Italy and has a unique color combination—light lavender base with maroon markings. Derby responds slower and has lower production than Sims—growers should cut higher than Sims to maintain good produc-

tion. Derby is a smaller flower that could best be grown as a standard in the summer and a spray in the winter. Stems are thin and wiry.

Parade is a white miniature bred in Holland. It's a sport of LaReve, has slightly smaller flowers, and is more productive than LaReve. Parade is prone to splitting with temperature fluctuations.

Improved Lilac has production similar to the Elegance varieties. This light pastel lilac pink sport of Petite Purple was developed by the Siri Brothers, Inc. Improved Lilac has good growth

habit, medium height, and good keeping quality.

Apache is a variegated variety. It has a white base with purple markings. This variety has good production and high bud count. Some of the flowers will revert to solid purple. Commanche is a solid purple sport of Apache. It has good summer color retention, and is a fast grower.

Juanita is a light yellow miniature with pink markings. Cuts can be taken deeper since this variety responds fast with good breaking action. The bud count is high on nicely formed sprays. According to Tom, Juanita appears to be one of the best Carrier introductions.

Lady Di is another good Carrier introduction. The deep magenta/purple flowers are borne on strong stems. The plants have good spray formation, high bud count, and quick breaking action. Tom said the color holds well under high temperatures, and the petals don't burn.

Kirishima is a sport of Silvery Pink. The plant is similar to Silvery Pink in all respects and is light pink flecked with dark pink. Developed by Akira Endo.

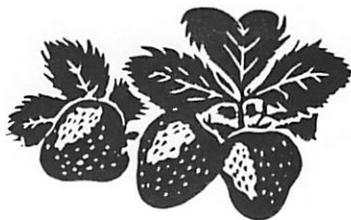
Chrysanthemums

In talking about new chrysanthemum varieties, Tom compared the new introductions to the Marble series. "This past summer, growers experienced the worst heat stall in years," Tom said. "The Marbles heat stall badly and they also exhibit characteristic foliage problems." These foliage problems are due to one or more of the following reasons: high concentrations or frequent applications of Metasystox or Vapona; magnesium deficiency (causes specks on the leaves—correct with Epsom Salts—magnesium sulfate), and phosphorous deficiency causing foliage breakdown on the lower leaves. To correct this last problem, growers should incorporate superphosphate into their soil or add phosphoric acid to their fertilizer regime.

Daisies: The Novas are a new series that exhibit none of the Marble foliage problems. These 9-week summer daisies come in white, yellow, and pink. Flowers are smaller than Marbles, the petals are more rounded, and the flowers have nice green eyes when cut properly. Pollen develops slowly. The Novas can be grown under 56° or 60° programs, and are less

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sensitive to heat than Marbles. Recommended flowering time: April through November.

If the flowering season is extended on the Novas, the sprays may be clubby. To lengthen the internodes, an application of gibberellic acid at 10 to 20 ppm applied four to six weeks after lighting is stopped should alleviate this problem. Novas grown under the same production program as Marbles will be 2" to 3" shorter than Marbles. Tom also mentioned that White Nova may bruise during shipping.

Charlie, El Charo, and Chardonay complete a family of daisies that began with the introduction of Charisma a few years ago. All of these varieties are 9-week, year-round types. Charisma is pink, El Charo is bronze, Charlie is yellow, and Chardonay is white. Tom stated that Chardonay is a good white daisy to use for winter production. All of these new daisies are 2" to 4" taller than Marbles, are larger-flowered, and more vigorous growers.

Heirloom is another new white daisy. It's a 9-week type that can be flowered for April through November. At 56° night temperatures, some pink-

ing will occur. Heirloom is a very vigorous grower, and will be 3" to 6" taller than White Marble. Under extreme temperatures it will flower about seven to 10 days sooner than White Marble. Tom reported that Heirloom has excellent keeping qualities and less foliar breakdown in the bucket.

Foxy is a 9-week brilliant red daisy for May through November flowering. Under high temperatures, Foxy will respond a bit later than usual, and, under cool temperatures (50°), the response is delayed and the flowering uneven. Sprays will be clubby if the plant is flowered beyond the recommended periods—a gibberellic acid spray will help. Foxy has a flower size and shape similar to Amber, and plants display a medium vigor between that of Amber and Marbles.

Decoratives: Riot is a November, 1983, introduction recommended for April through November flowering. The flowers are reddish-bronze, and plants have good high and low temperature tolerance. Riot is approximately the same height as Beauregards. The spray formation is terminal—Riot may also benefit from a gibberellic acid spray. Under high

temperatures, Riot will flower four to five days ahead of Flame Belair. The new variety is not recommended to be grown under low light conditions.

Venture is a dark gold year-round decorative spray. Tom said that this variety is an improvement over Golden Polaris, and performs well under both high and low temperatures. The flower size is about 15% to 20% smaller than Golden Polaris, and the cuttings will be 2" to 4" shorter. Tom added that the stems on Venture are much stronger, and Venture doesn't have a tendency to overcurl like Polaris. Gibberellic acid may help elongate the peduncles on Venture.

Making your choice

If you're tired of the same mum and carnation varieties you've been growing, perhaps you should take a look at these new introductions. They may be nice additions to your production or may replace a variety you've been having production problems with. You may also find something which may just substitute for those alstroemerias you were planning to grow.

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