

Snapdragons and Misc. Crops

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Snapdragons

Q. In sowing snapdragon seeds, what is the best way to prevent damping off?

A. If the seeds are germinated in Vermiculite damping off will be held to a minimum. Vermiculite is easy to prepare and the seedlings are easy to transplant. However, you should be sure to fertilize to prevent stunting. A weak solution of 15-30-15 or 20-20-20 soluble fertilizer is good.

A. If necessary, a loose soil can be used but this should be sterilized. Some growers successfully use a 1/2 inch layer of vermiculite on top of the soil and sow the seed on the vermiculite. The roots soon go down into the soil and get nutrients.

A. If damping off starts, dust the surface of the soil with Fermate.

Q. What causes the trouble in germinating snapdragon seed on soil sterilized with methyl bromide?

A. It may be that it was not well aerated after treating.

Q. What is the best place to germinate seed in the summer time?

A. In the summer put them in a cool basement or some other room until the seeds germinate, then put them in the greenhouse. A very shallow drilling of seed helps keep the seed moist in the summer time. Don't cover the seed flats.

Q. Which is best, single stem or pinched snapdragon?

A. Single stem often produce heavier spikes and stems which may not bring enough money for a profit. It certainly is a good method if there is not time for a pinched crop in the rotation.

Q. What is the best variety of snaps for the summer time?

A. Summer snaps of hot weather Rockwood varieties can be money makers if grown on a small scale. Sow the seed in late May, bench on June 20 and cut August 15 to 25th, depending on varieties. One grower reported that June, July, and August were his most profitable snapdragon months.

Q. The single stem snaps I grow are not uniform in their flowering. Why?

A. A lack of uniform flowering is usually due to the grower not planting uniform sized seedlings. The seedlings should be graded at the time of planting.

Q. What is the best spacing for single stem material?

A. Usually 15 to 20 square inches per stem. If

you are growing pinched stock, 14 to 15 square inches for each stem, allowing 4 stems per plant. Actually, spacing must vary some with variety.

Q. What are good varieties for single stem culture?

A. For whites, Apollo is excellent, Citation and Margaret good; light pinks, Christina; or deep rose, New Times is excellent. For a yellow, War Admiral is excellent and a little heavier than Patricia. Golden Spike is okay in the spring.

Stocks

Q. What is new with the various varieties of stocks now being advertised?

A. Four new types have been publicized. The first is Pacific Pink, a new color probably due to a new gene. A medium pink and very worthy of trial.

The second type is the Trisomic. This is a branching type with a high percentage of doubles. This is not a column stock and therefore, not too good for cut flower purposes.

Third is Hansen's strain. The doubles here have a light green leaf and can be selected. However, they are not good for general cut flower production because of the short stems.

The fourth type is U. S. D. A. Pink which is an origination out of the Hansen strain. You can select a high percentage of doubles but the stems are not as good as our column varieties.

Q. How many stocks are grown in the East?

A. Many stocks are still grown in spite of West Coast production. Probably, however, most growers do not know whether they are making a profit or not.

Asters

Q. What is the best time of year to grow asters?

A. October, November, and December are definitely not profitable months. May is probably the most profitable season but there is a limited demand at that time.

Q. Should asters be disbudded?

A. No, don't disbud but remove only the sub-laterals. A 10 x 10-inch spacing gives good quality production. The development of single flowers instead of doubles is probably due to low temperature during the development of the flower.

A spring crop after a February crop of pompons can make use of the same lights.