

# Illinois State Florists' Association



# BULLETIN

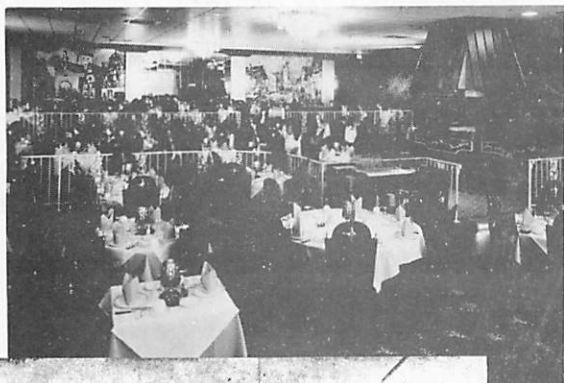
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A. P. Gasior, Editor

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## SPRING CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR MARCH 24-25 HOLIDAY INN of DECATUR



HOLIDAY INN OF DECATUR  
U. S. Rt. 36 West & Wyckles Road  
Decatur, Illinois

Yielding to the request of the Decatur area ISFA members, the Board of Directors recently voted to stage the 1973 Annual Spring Conference in the Decatur-Urbana-Springfield area. After extensive study of the area Marv. Carbonneau, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Illinois, announced the Holiday Inn of Decatur as the site for the 1973 conference.

The annual Spring Conference is staged by the association and is co-hosted by local ISFA members. As always the association is seeking volunteers in the Decatur-Urbana-Peoria-Springfield area to help stage this annual event. Interested parties may contact Marv. Carbonneau, University of Illinois, at 100 Floriculture Bldg., Urbana, Ill. 61801 (217-333-2123) or the ISFA Secretary Art Gasior at 1426 Morris Avenue, Berkeley, Ill. 60163 (312-544-8425).

The annual conference is the combined efforts of the Retail and Growers Committees of the association. Plans for this event include a Trade Fair, Design School, Growers Seminar and tours of local greenhouses.

The Holiday Inn of Decatur is located on U.S. Rt. 36 West and Wyckles Road in Decatur and has ideal facilities for the conference. It will enable our members to enjoy a fun filled or a business oriented week-end. The Holiday Inn of Decatur has a year round pool, sauna baths and unique dining facilities. The ISFA association has reserved a block of restful rooms for their members, guests and exhibitors. We urge you to mark the calendar for the ISFA Spring Conference for March 24-25 for the Holiday Inn of Decatur.

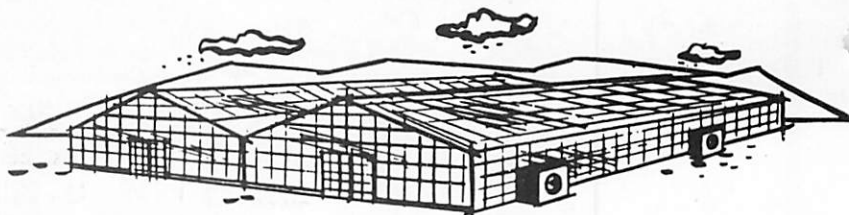
### TRADE FAIR EXHIBITORS WELCOMED

Florist suppliers are welcome to exhibit at the Trade Fair. Booth information may be obtained from Marv. Carbonneau at the University of Illinois, 100 Floriculture Bldg., Urbana, Illinois 61801 (217-333-2123) or contact the office of the Secretary, Art Gasior at 1426 Morris Avenue, Berkeley, Illinois (312-544-8425).

# Growers' Corner

## METHODS AND SCHEDULES

### FOR FORCING EASTER LILIES — 1973



H. F. Wilkins and R. E. Widmer  
Presented at the Pot Plant Seminar Sponsored by U. of I. Extension Service  
and the Illinois State Florists Assn.

Easter 1973 falls on April 22, which is one of the latest possible dates (Table 1). This very late date can be an asset. If forcers will follow simple directions they will be able to produce high quality plants with high bud counts, long lower leaves on short stems with many leaves. However, late Easter can be a liability if the crop comes in too early and prolonged storage is required.

Many bulb forcers still do not keep records. Would it not be good management if a forcer could go to forcing temperature records and weather information for Easter 1962 on April 22, or even 1968 with Easter on April 14 (Table 1).

There are four techniques or cultural methods that the commercial lily forcer can follow to program bulbs for Easter. These methods are: I. Natural Cooling; II. Control Temperature Forcing (C.T.F.); III. Home Case-Cooled Bulbs (Do-It-Yourself); IV. Commercial Case-Cooled Bulbs.

Methods I and II require that the bulbs be potted prior to cold treatment exposure. With methods III and IV the bulbs are exposed to the cold treatment while in the packing case.

Plants from bulbs treated under methods I and II have a higher bud count, more leaves on shorter plants, and longer basal leaves. These plants have excellent "plant picture." If method III is followed, the resulting plants will be somewhat superior to plants from method IV. When methods I, II, and III are followed and temperature conditions are rigidly maintained, the forcer knows that the proper temperature treatments have been given. Increased difficulties with transportation and commercial cold storage facilities indicate that methods I, II, and III should be given priority.



## SCHEDULE I

### Natural Cooling Method

— Easter 1973 —

#### Procedure

- a) Non-cooled bulbs are used.
- b) Bulbs arrive approximately October 16-20, 1972.
- c) Pot immediately. Place the bulb deep in the pot in case of premature sprouting. Keep pots moist at all times. The cold treatment can not be perceived by the bulb in dry soil.
- d) Use a well aerated, porous soil. See University of Minnesota's fertilizer recommendation in this report.
- e) Potted bulbs should be placed in covered frames or sheds and exposed to the naturally occurring, fluctuating temperatures. Exact temperature records must be kept. Use thermometers inserted in the pots. Bulbs require 1000 hours (6 weeks) or cold treatment. Record temperatures daily. 'Ace' bulbs should be cooled as near 35°-40°F. as possible; 'Nellie White' at 40°-45°F. Soil should not be allowed to freeze.
- f) If bulbs lack adequate cooling because of unusual weather conditions, the young plants upon emergence should be given 2 weeks of long days at 15 footcandles from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. (5 hours). Long days (interrupted nights) can substitute for the cold treatment on a day-for-day basis.
- g) Move potted bulbs into the greenhouse between December 18-22, 1972.
- h) Soil temperatures should not go below 60°F. Nor should soil temperatures go above 65°F. until January 26, 1973. Lower temperatures may decrease flower count and root development. Higher temperatures at this stage may delay flowering. Forcing at any air temperatures above 70°F. should not commence until after February 2, 1973. Flower buds do not develop until plants are 4-6 inches tall and flower buds are formed. Until this time, temperatures near 70°F. and above may delay flowering.
- i) Make this initial leaf-counting observations between January 26 and February 2, 1973 for scheduling temperature forcing and leaf unfolding rates of the plants.

TABLE I

Dates of Easter Sunday from 1970 to 1981.

1970 — March 29	1976 — April 18
1971 — April 11	1977 — April 10
1972 — April 2	1978 — March 26
1973 — April 22	1979 — April 15
1974 — April 14	1980 — April 6
1975 — March 30	1981 — April 19