Nurse-bed ‘One Crop’ Carnations*

R. W. Lanchans and J. Kumpf

As a further refinement of the ‘one crop’ system and at the suggestion of Clair Maier of Bent Mountain, Virginia, consideration was given to nurse-bedding carnation plants before benching. The proposed scheme was to pot rooted cuttings in 3-inch peat pots, place the plants on capillary benches (see the NYSFG Bul. 275)—pot to pot and pinch in 7 to 10 days. Lights would be used to produce an 18 hour photoperiod immediately after the pinch. Starting 4 weeks after potting and every 2 weeks up to the 10th week, a group of plants would be benched at a 6” x 7” spacing, also under lights. The lighting would be maintained until the buds were about the size of a pea. The experiment was started November 26 and the cuttings were benched December 26, January 9, January 23, and February 6. Cultural practices were normal and fertilizer levels and spray programs were as suggested in Cornell Recommendations for Commercial Floriculture Crops. Twenty-two cultivars were used in this study and the cuttings were supplied through the courtesy of Yoder Brothers, Barberton, Ohio and W. W. Thomson Company, West Hartford, Connecticut.

Data recorded included length of stem, weight, grade, number of flowers per square foot and number of days to peak production. Days to peak production was determined by recording the date each flower was cut and then determining the date on which the middle flower was cut.

The results of the days to peak production for the 22 cultivars and the 4 plantings are shown in Table 1. Also shown in Table 1 is the ‘bench time’, which is the number of days the plants were in the bench until peak production.

This was a spring crop and there was relatively little difference in the overall days to peak production between the cultivars. ‘Ohio Red Sim’ in this study was probably the quickest of these selections. There was little difference in the peak production between the four planting dates. The important implications, however, can be seen when comparing the ‘bench time’ for the 4 planting dates. The later the crop was planted in the bench, the less the ‘bench time’. And as we have mentioned, all of the crops flowered at approximately the same time. The ‘bench time’ was reduced to a point of about 90 days in the bench and ap-

(continued on page 2)

* We wish to thank the Fred C. Gloeckner Foundation and the New York Florists’ Club for financial support of this project.

What They Say About The N.Y.S.F.G. Bulletin

Carl F. Gortzig

Every once in a while it does us all some good to evaluate our efforts. The Bulletin Committee is, of course, no exception and has been constantly examining the effectiveness of its publication. Numerous changes have resulted in recent years and months and still more are in store as reorganization of our group moves ahead.

Recently, the Committee and Editor Bob Langhans got a rather nice set of feathers poked into their respective caps as a result of Secretary-Treasurer Wilton requesting those persons on the complimentary mailing list to indicate if they wished to continue receiving the Bulletin. Not only was the reply a unanimous “yes,” but the compliments came showering down with the letters of reply. Because the Editor and Bulletin Committee are too modest to brag a little, I have taken pen in hand to tell you what teachers, researchers, trade paper editors and writers, state agricultural officials and others who receive the Bulletin on a complimentary basis are saying about your publication. Here goes!

— a retired professor of floriculture:
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for sending me the complimentary bulletin of the New York State Flower Growers, Inc. As you may know, I am still attached to the University in that I am preparing correspondence courses in soil science and elementary and advanced greenhouse management for our correspondence course program, and am also responsible for marking and commenting on the various assignments. Naturally, it is of utmost importance that I keep abreast of all modern research, and I am very pleased to receive your Bulletin.

— a regional floriculture extension specialist:
Best research reports around!

— a professor of floriculture at a midwestern university:
The New York State Flower Growers Bulletin is excellent and is a great assist in keeping current in floriculture research.

— a trade paper writer:
Bulletin great—keep ‘em coming.

— a parks superintendent:
We enjoy them very much.

— a horticultural researcher:
The Bulletin is extremely useful in keeping me up-to-date.

(continued on page 2)
Nurse-bed ‘One Crop’ Carnations
(continued from page 1)

...proximately 60 days in the nurse-bed, for a savings of approximately 2 months of ‘bench time’.

The production and quality figures in Table 2 indicate the longer the plants were kept in the peat pots, the poorer the quality and the less number of flowers per square foot. The data shown in Table 2 is the average for all of the varieties.

**Conclusion:** There is a saying “You get nothing for nothing.” This work bears this out for the nurse-crop method. It is possible to grow the plants in peat pots for 60 days and then produce a cut flower crop in 90 days for a large saving in bench time; unfortunately, there is also a loss of quality and flowers per sq ft. It now becomes an economic question that can only be answered by each grower, i.e. comparing the dollars saved in bench space to the loss in flowers per sq ft. This method does, however, seem to have some promise and should be considered with the ‘one crop’ system for growing carnations.

From this work we would suggest for trial, planting the cuttings in 3” peat pots, pinching in 1 week and lighting for 18 hours after the shoots start to grow. The capillary bench proved to be a simple, labor-saving method to water and fertilize plants during this stage. The crops should be benched in 6 to 8 weeks and lighting should be continued until the buds are the size of a pea.

It should also be noted plants left in the peat pot after 10 weeks were difficult to handle because of their size.

Some adjustments may have to be made in this schedule if it is to be used at other than the winter season. The plants would probably grow faster during the summer or fall, therefore, the number of weeks in the peat pot would have to be reduced.

Table 2. Averages of production measured in weight, stem length, and number of flowers per square foot for 22 carnation cultivars benched on 4 dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of benching</th>
<th>Cultivar*</th>
<th>Weight (gm)</th>
<th>Length (in)</th>
<th>No of flrs per sq ft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/26</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The numbers refer to the cultivars given in Table 1. All of the cultivars were averaged together.

Table 1. The number of days to peak production and bench time for 22 cultivars of carnations benched on 4 dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CULTIVAR</th>
<th>12/26 Days to peak</th>
<th>12/26 Bench time</th>
<th>1/9 Days to peak</th>
<th>1/9 Bench time</th>
<th>1/23 Days to peak</th>
<th>1/23 Bench time</th>
<th>2/6 Days to peak</th>
<th>2/6 Bench time</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1. Dusty</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Linda</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. S. Arthur Sim</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ohio Red Sim</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Helios</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Imp. White Sim</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ohio Light Pink Sim</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>8. Sparkle</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>95</td>
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<td>9. Scania</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>10. Scania 3C</td>
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<td>116</td>
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<td>11. Persian Pink Sim</td>
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<td>113</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Iroquois</td>
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<td>153</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>13. Ohio White Sim</td>
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<td>113</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>14. Sunset Sim</td>
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<td>153</td>
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<td>96</td>
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<td>15. U Conn Sim No 1</td>
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<td>160</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>16. Don Sierra</td>
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<td>110</td>
<td>158</td>
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<td>17. Mardigas</td>
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<td>113</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>18. White Don Sierra</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>156</td>
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<td>19. Linda</td>
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<td>20. Sunburst</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td>21. Boston</td>
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<td>110</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Boston Marathon</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What They Say About the NYSFG Bulletin (continued from page 1)

—a trade paper editor:
We would like to continue to get your Bulletin which provides an excellent information basis for advice to those who are interested in growing plants on a commercial basis.

—a floriculture professor in an eastern state:
I appreciate being kept on the complimentary membership of the New York State Flower Growers, Inc. The reports of Cornell research are most helpful and through your Flower Growers Bulletin they are disseminated long before they would reach us through normal research channels.

—a horticultural inspector:
I look forward to this and the information therein. Very informative and useful.

—a state entomologist:
We enjoy receiving your Bulletin very much. I recently copied an article from it relating to mite control, which I sent to some of our greenhouse operators. From the response I’ve received so far, it was very much appreciated.

—a botanical garden researcher:
An excellent publication which keeps me informed in what’s going on in floriculture. (continued on page 4)
What They Say About the NYSFG Bulletin
(continued from page 2)

—a floriculture professor in a western university:
We value your *New York State Flower Growers Bulletin* highly. We certainly appreciate receiving it gratis. It is used by our floriculture students as well as by me. Thank you. Please do send.

—a state horticulturist:
Your group is to be congratulated and thanked for sponsoring this useful publication and Editor Bob Langhans and his committee are to be complimented for its excellent make-up.

—a professor of horticulture in a midwestern university:
I do want you, the editorial committee, and the members of the New York State Flower Growers, Inc., to know that I sincerely appreciate receiving your fine bulletin. The *New York State Flower Growers Bulletin* finds much use in our group here at the University. We index many articles whereby its usefulness is extended to some of our research, our teaching and our extension program with commercial florists.

—a professor of floriculture in a New England university:
Please continue. We appreciate receiving your publication and consider it one of the most outstanding of its type.

—a floriculture researcher in a western state:
Your organization has been sending the the *Bulletin* for several years now and I’d like to take this opportunity to say “thank you.” I’ve transferred from a position in Agricultural Extension to one in floricultural research and I find your *Bulletin* more useful than ever. I have no suggestions concerning it. I think Bob does an excellent job of editing it.

—a county agent in California:
I definitely want to continue to receive complimentary copies of the *New York State Flower Growers, Inc. Bulletin*. I work full-time in floriculture research and education with commercial producers. I receive a great many of the various state bulletins, but continue to find New York’s one of the most useful and informative.

—a professor of plant pathology in a western state:
I thank you for continuing to send me copies of the *New York State Flower Growers Bulletin*. It always contains excellent and timely articles. After reading each copy, I take it for deposit in our Agriculture Library.

—a regional extension specialist in a nearby-state:
Excellent publication! Thank you.

And finally, we don’t know why, but one professor of floriculture in a nearby state used this occasion to send Charlie Wilton a joke to wit:

“Hi Charlie— did you know that running a business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark. You know what you’re doing, but she doesn’t.”

So, if you hear our good Secretary-Treasurer telling this rather poor story, you’ll know from whence he has plagiarized it! Incidentally, the joking professor added a final comment—“Thanks for keeping us on the *Bulletin* mailing list—it is one of the best.”

Industry News and Views
(continued from page 3)

NEW YORK FLORISTS’ CLUB TOURS BELTSVILLE

On October 8, 1969, the New York Florists’ Club visited the USDA Research Station in Beltsville, Maryland. The contributor (who shall remain nameless) of the accompanying photograph of the “visiting firemen” accepts full blame for incomplete or inaccurate identification of all persons therein. Here is his best try:

Back Row: left to right
Martin R. Friedman, ?, Dr. Robert N. Stewart, James McCready, Dr. Lawson, Philip Van Bourgondien, H. Band, Frank Kerpen, Herman Hoffman, Dr. Arthur Bing, Manfred Fight, Henry Buss, Isidore Jablons, Charles Samtmann, Joseph Valenie, Charles Rigo, William Slottweg

Front Row: left to right
J. Kennedy, ?, A. Fight, Richard Mayer, Martine Conkling, Dr. H. M. (Marc) Cathey, Dr. O. Wesley Davidson, Horace McCready, Bruce L. Birnie, and Jerry Silverman

CORNELL STUDENTS RECEIVE NEW YORK FLORISTS’ CLUB AWARDS

Dr. John G. Seeley, (left) Head, Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University and a member of the New York Florists’ Club Youth Education Committee, presents the Club’s annual student awards to:

Richard Biamonte, (right) Valley Stream, Long Island, New York
—award for student showing outstanding interest and leadership in floriculture.

John Hockenhull, (center) Denmark
—award for outstanding scholarship in floriculture.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW
NEW YORK STATE FLOWER INDUSTRIES CONVENTION, HOTEL SYRACUSE OCTOBER 10-12, 1970

In This Issue Bul. 293, April, 1970

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YOUR EDITOR,
CARL CORTZIG
Industry News and Views
by Carl F. Gortzig

It Has Been A Busy Winter . . .

Cooperative Extension agents across the State in cooperation with florist industry groups and the Department of Floriculture at Cornell University have presented a series of well attended county and regional winter conferences for florists. Erie, Niagara and Monroe Counties joined forces for the Western New York Regional Florists Conference held at Batavia on January 12, while the Hudson Valley Counties fielded a conference at the Dutchess County Farm and Home Center, Millbrook on the following day, January 13. Florists in central and southern New York counties joined in a Regional Bedding Plant Conference on January 14 in Syracuse sponsored by Cooperative Extension in Oneida, Chemung, Broome and Onondaga Counties. Progress reports on the New York State Flower Growers, Inc. reorganization and on the 1970 New York State Flower Industries Convention were given by directors of the New York State Flower Growers, Inc. at the conferences as follows:

Western New York—John Brookins, Orchard Park and Donald Phelps, Rochester, Convention Chairman
Hudson Valley—Donald Vandenburg, Liberty
Central New York—George Kobylarz, Newark Valley

These conferences are planned by industry committees, Extension agents and faculty to provide florists throughout the State with the latest recommendations for crop production, marketing and management. There will be more next year.

Hopscotching the State

John L. Brookins, Jerry Brookins, Inc., Orchard Park, a director of the New York State Flower Growers, Inc., has been elected President of the United Florists of Western New York. Other new officers are: First vice-president, John F. Tedesco; second vice-president, Ronald C. Biddie; secretary, Mrs. Edmond Paliwodzinski; and treasurer, Sheldon J. Kobrin.

William McEvoy has been appointed Cooperative Extension Regional Horticulture Specialist in the Capital District. Bill comes from a florist family in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. He has had seven years experience in Cooperative Extension both as floriculture and ornamental horticulture agent and as Division Leader in Chemung County (Elmira area). His office is located at 1297 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12205.

John G. Seeley, Arthur Bing, Dana Goodrich, Arthur Lieberman, Peter Steponkus and Harold Tukey, all Cornell faculty in floriculture and ornamental horticulture and related areas, are attending the 18th International Horticultural Congress in Tel-Aviv, Israel March 17 through 25, 1970. Bob Langhans and Ray Fox, both already in Europe on sabbatical leaves, are also attending. Seeley, Bing and Langhans will also participate in the First International Symposium on Flowerbulbs in Noordwijk/Lisse, Holland on their return trip home.

“New Ideas for Bedding Plant Growers” was the topic handled by a panel of growers from southeastern New York at the Hudson Valley Regional Florists’ Conference. Participating were Jan Jansen, Cooperative Extension Agent, Orange County, moderator, Gene Corey, Walkill, John Lobatsky, Rhinebeck, William Bailey, Hawthorne, demonstrating a flat seeding device, Emanuel Shemin, Greenwich, Connecticut, and Ernest Cuzzocreo, New Haven, Connecticut.