Minimum Wage for Retail Establishments Now $1.45 Per Hour

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Society of American Florists

The minimum wage under the Federal Wage-Hour Law for covered retail enterprises having a volume of at least $250,000 but less than $1,000,000 was increased to $1.45 per hour on February 1, 1970.

There will be no increase beyond the current $1.30 per hour which applies to agricultural employees and no increase beyond the current $1.60 per hour which applies to other employees who were covered by the Act prior to February 1, 1967. This would include employees of retail enterprises having an annual volume of $1,000,000 or more, employees of wholesalers, and other previously covered employees.

We have previously reported on the Dent Bill which would increase the minimum wage to $2.00 per hour by February 1, 1972, remove most industry exemptions, require overtime after 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week, and give the Secretary of Labor the authority to sue for double back wages. No hearings have been scheduled during 1969, but it is expected that hearings will be scheduled during the early months of 1970 so that passage may be affected during the second session of the current Congress. We will continue to keep you advised of the progress of this legislation.

Iris Forcing Leads to New Export Market

More than 175 million iris bulbs from Washington State were shipped overseas in the years between 1964 and 1968 as a result of the cooperative iris forcing experiments by U.S. Department of Agriculture and Washington State University scientists.

Less than two decades ago, the public saw few winter-blooming irises, and those that were available were exorbitant in price. Today, they are available in the United States, and the Washington-grown bulbs have all but captured the early winter iris market of Western Europe.

Dr. Neil W. Stuart, plant physiologist of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service, and Dr. Charles J. Gould, plant pathologist of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station at Puyallup, began their iris investigations in 1948. At that time, forcing irises for winter blooming could be

The 41°F. Cut Tulip Program A Commercial Reality

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In earlier issues of this Bulletin experiments were discussed which pointed to the commercial value of holding tulip bulbs in the shipping cases as received from Holland at 41°F for 10-12 weeks and then planting them directly in a greenhouse for flowering. Better results were obtained by giving the 41° storage treatment at or near the site of the greenhouses where the bulbs will be flowered, rather than in Holland because of the possibility of exposure to adverse temperature conditions during the prolonged shipping period.

When the experiments on 41°F storage began to show promise, one Long Island grower tried the procedure. In the short period of two years he has replaced his old production program with this method. By last year, he and another wholesale grower were treating tulip bulbs in their own 41°F storage facilities and forcing them. Again this

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'One Crop' Carnations: When to Pinch*

John Kumpf and R. W. Langhans

The objective of the 'one crop' carnation system is to obtain rapid growth and a quick crop, therefore, the time of pinching becomes critical. There have been reports to show the best time to pinch chrysanthemums and carnations for continuous production, but not for 'one crop' carnations.

With this problem in mind, pinches were made at the following times:

A Pinch before rooting.
B Pinch at rooting.
C Pinch 1 week after rooting.
D Pinch 2 weeks after rooting.
E Pinch 3 weeks after rooting.

This work was done in the spring of 1967. On March 23rd cuttings were taken from short day grown stock plants and one group pinched immediately. Cuttings were placed in a propagating bench with bottom heat and a mist system. Three weeks later the cuttings were rooted and removed from the propagating bench (at which time the second group was pinched) potted into 4" pots and placed in a 60°F greenhouse. The third group was pinched 1 week later followed by the fourth and fifth pinching, 2 and 3 weeks later.

The plants were allowed to grow for 8 weeks after the last pinch. To determine the amount of growth, the plants were cut off at the soil line and the fresh weights recorded.

These weights are reported in Table 1. One observation to note in treatment A is that the pinch was very difficult to perform because of the size of the cutting, and only 50%, or 10 of the 20 pinches, were successful.

From this study we can see the earlier the crop was pinched, the greater amount of fresh weight. Fresh weight is an indication of the amount of plant material or growth produced. We therefore suggest for 'one crop' carnations the plants be pinched as early as possible after planting. Pinching before or during propagation was too difficult and too unreliable to be practical.

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

Table 1. Fresh weight of 10 carnation plants 11 weeks after potting, when pinched at 5 different times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Fresh weight in grams</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Pinch before rooting</td>
<td>805*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Pinch at rooting</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Pinch 1 week after rooting</td>
<td>738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Pinch 2 weeks after rooting</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Pinch 3 weeks after rooting</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Only 50% of the pinches were successful and these were the plants used to determine this average fresh weight.

The 41°F Cut Tulip Program A Commercial Reality

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year they are continuing to use this procedure exclusively. Four other wholesale growers, several smaller growers, and a large New Jersey grower are also on a program of continuous winter production of cut tulip flowers using bulbs treated at the Cornell-U.S.D.A. Ornamentals Research Laboratory at Farmingdale.

How are these growers doing? Most of the flowers produced have been of excellent quality and have brought good prices on the market. The growers are learning to cut the flowers tight, giving the retailer and consumer a longer period to enjoy the flowers. There is little doubt that the growers like the method—they are forcing 300,000 to 350,000 of the 41°F tulips on Long Island this winter!

Two difficulties are encountered by the grower. An economic problem not specific to the method is the import of cut tulips from Holland when market prices are high. A cultural problem with 41°F stored bulbs is that while some varieties are very dependable, others have been very slow at times or yield poor flowers. There remains much study to be done in varietal selection and the effect of bulb production conditions on subsequent forcing. In the meantime, growers are encouraged to plan a trial of this procedure for 1970-71. Program details are outlined under "Bulbous Crops" in the current edition of Cornell Recommendations for Commercial Floriculture Crops.
Research Briefs

1. Boron Excess in Roses, H. F. Wilkins and W. D. Holley

The paper describes and illustrates symptoms of boron excess in roses and illustrates through the use of grower experiences in Minnesota and Colorado, how difficult it can be to isolate the specific cause of certain crop difficulties. In the words of the authors: “This paper was compiled to show how difficult a cultural problem can be and how many people can be involved. Further, it is published as a warning that very little of some micronutrients can cause a great deal of trouble. Boron should not be added to roses unless it is needed. If ‘boron hunger’ is suspected, confirm this suspicion with tissue analysis. Probably no more than 0.25 p.p.m. of boron should be added to roses on a regular basis. If boron excess is suspected, confirm it with tissue analysis also. If boron accumulates in the young leaves and stem to 100 p.p.m. or more, steps should be taken to reduce boron available to the plants.”


The object of this study was to determine the influence of the addition of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere on the growing and flowering of Easter lilies and the effect of long days on the growth and development of non-vernalized bulbs; that is bulbs that did not have a cold storage treatment. The authors summary follows: “Vernalized and non-vernalized ‘Ace’ and vernalized ‘Nellie White’ Easter lily bulbs were grown at 3 carbon-dioxide levels—300, -1000, and -2000 ppm, and under long day at 15 ft-c from 10 PM to 3 AM and natural day treatments. Both vernalization and long days decreased the response to elevated carbon dioxide levels. When non-vernalized ‘Ace’ bulbs were grown under natural days, elevated carbon dioxide levels resulted in decreased plant height greatly accelerated floral differentiation and flowering, and decreased bud count. When vernalized ‘Ace’ and ‘Nellie White’ bulbs were grown under natural day and long day, the elevated carbon dioxide levels resulted primarily in increased plant height. Plants from non-vernalized bulbs, under long day at all carbon dioxide levels were shorter, flowered much earlier, and had fewer flowers than those under natural day. Plants from vernalized bulbs, under long day at all carbon dioxide levels were taller, flowered slightly earlier, and for the variety ‘Ace’ had fewer flowers than those under natural day.”

European Chafer Regulated Areas Extended to More New York Counties

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it is extending the area regulated for European chafer to include part or all of six counties in two States.

Extension of the European chafer regulated areas by USDA’s Agricultural Research Service will become effective on publication in the Federal Register, scheduled for Feb. 5.

The areas to be regulated for the first time under the European chafer quarantine include: portions of Chautauqua, Fulton, Orange, and Ulster Counties, and all of Queens County in New York State; and a portion of Middlesex County in Connecticut. Regulated areas have also been extended in some previously regulated counties in New York.

The chafer is a major pest whose larvae feed on the roots of lawns, pastures, and cultivated crops. To date infestations have been confined to areas in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. If permitted to spread unchecked, the chafer could become established across the country.

Federal and/or State quarantines in these States help prevent “artificial” spread of European chafer by restricting the movement of articles from regulated areas that could carry the pest into noninfested areas. The list of regulated items includes: soil, plants with roots, grass sod, plant crowns and roots for propagation, used mechanized soil-moving equipment, and true bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers of ornamental plants.

Persons wishing to move these items from regulated areas should first contact a New York State horticultural inspector for information on how to meet requirements for eliminating the pest hazard.

Iris Forcing Leads to New Export Market

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described as a gamble for the greenhouse operators. Dr. Stuart and Dr. Gould, over a period of years, using Wedgewood, Ideal, and Blue Ribbon iris bulbs solved the enigma of winter blooming.

Their study reveals that iris bulbs, within 5 days of harvest, should be heat-cured at 90°F for 10 days. They can then be shipped at a minimum temperature of 65°. The next step before they can be planted is a cool storage period at 50° for 6 to 8 weeks, the exact length of time depending upon the variety. This step is called forcing. After forcing, bulbs can be planted and will bloom in 8 to 10 weeks.

For the overseas market, Washington growers heat-cure the bulbs which are then carried by ship to the Isle of Guernsey in the English Channel. Here, the growers cool-store the bulbs, some in German bunkers left standing from World War II, and then plant them in some of the 1,000 acres of greenhouses for growing and blooming. From there, it is a mere step to the Christmas and winter flower markets of England and Western Europe.
We've Had A Snowy Winter!

We are in receipt of numerous reports of greenhouses collapsing under the unusually heavy snow loads of this winter. In most cases, houses that went down were unheated at the time, and heavy loads of snow accumulated as a result. Generally speaking, dangerous snow loads will not accumulate on heated greenhouses.

But barns, potting sheds and unheated storage areas are another story. Measurement of snow weights made by the Cornell agricultural engineers in the Hudson Valley ranged from 13 to 19 pounds per cubic foot of the white stuff. So if there is three feet of snow on your roof you could have about 40 to 60 pounds per square foot. For most roofs in New York State, this approaches the design limits.

The engineers suggest the following measures when snow does not thaw and more snow is forecast in your area. Continue to keep an eye on buildings for any indications of weakening, especially wide clear span barns or sheds. Put in bracing and cables in strategic areas and shovel off snow at once if building shows any signs of weakness. Jack posts and tripods may be handy. Tripods are more steady than single posts. On long buildings extra reinforcing and posts may be installed about every 40 feet to avoid complete collapse (the domino effect) of the entire building. If the building is nearing failure, the snow should be removed with great care so that shifting the weight or movement does not trigger a collapse.

Be careful if you get on the roof—during freezing temperatures conditions may be more slippery once the heavy snow coat is removed. And be especially careful on weak buildings—you will go down with them if collapse occurs while you’re on the roof!

New York State Flower Growers Inc. Lends a Hand to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

Last October, New York was host state to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. Don J. Wickham, Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and John L. Matheson, Assistant Director of the Division of Markets, asked the New York State Flower Growers, Inc. for assistance in providing and staging flower arrangements for the various Convention functions. Under the leadership of President Herb Forbach, Jr. and with the able and ample assistance of flower growers and retail florists (too numerous to mention by name) throughout the State, a very professional job of providing and arranging our product was accomplished. New York State Flower Growers, Inc. is in receipt of telegrams and letters from nearly every state in the union complimenting us on our beautiful flowers and our vigorous flower industry. We impressed them!

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YOUR EDITOR,
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