

## 1979 EASTER LILY EXPERIMENTS

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In 1978, Easter lilies were grown with three precooling treatments (CT GNL 87:5-6). Significant differences in bud counts were found. The experiment was duplicated this year, 100 bulbs per treatment, with the following results.

Treatment	Bud Count	
	1978	1979
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Commercial Case Cooled ("CCC:)		
Delivered 12/12,* Pot 12/15 Force 60°	5.5	5.5
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Home Case Cooled ("HCC")		
Cool 40° 11/6, Pot 12/15 Force 60°	6.4	6.5
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Controlled Temperature Forcing ("CTF")		
Pot 11/6 60°; 11/20 40°; 1/1 60°	7.9**	6.7

\*1979 dates

\*\*The precooling temperature in 1978 was 35°

The increase in bud count in CTF was expected. The drop in 1979 in comparison to the other treatments was not unexpected since lily data is notoriously variable. The higher bud counts in HCC in both years were surprising.

But a problem has arisen both years. The CTF lilies, following the Minnesota recommendations, were late. In 1978, the CTF lilies, without any pre-Easter temperature manipulation, were as much as three weeks late. This year they were probably two weeks late 25 days before Easter when timing observations were terminated and differential temperatures were begun. Many would have missed Easter.

The HCC lilies were taken from the same case as the CTF lilies. Since the peat moss was quite dry, some water was added and the case placed in a 40° cooler in the floriculture greenhouse on November 6. These were removed from the cooler after six weeks and potted, at the same time as the CCC lilies, 17 weeks before Easter according to the Connecticut Easter Lily Schedule.

The HCC lilies were early. Growth was more uniform than any crop we grew in recent years. Since differential temperatures were started later than normal, many were too advanced and finally moved to 40° storage.

The CCC lilies were not uniform. A few were as advanced as the HCC lilies, but many were slower than the CTF. It is possible that either dry peat moss or commercial cooling conditions could have contributed to this.

Unless bulbs can be received earlier for CTF schedules, it would appear that the additional heat required for timing might at least partially negate the value of the additional buds and somewhat better foliage.

On the basis of these limited experiments, it would seem advisable to use CTF if bulbs arrive early enough. Otherwise, cooling in one's own cooler is advisable.

## WELCOME — ALLEN C. BOTACCHI REGIONAL HORTICULTURE AGENT

Allen C. Botacchi started the 1st of June as Extension Regional Horticulture Agent for Middlesex, New Haven, and New London counties. Allen replaces Roy Judd in that position and will work from the Wallingford office. Mr. Botacchi's primary responsibility will be to provide educational programs for commercial producers of greenhouse crops, bedding plants and nursery stock.

Mr. Botacchi received a BS degree from the University of Massachusetts in floriculture and an MS degree from Pennsylvania State University in horticulture. He was an Air Force pilot and a horticulturist for Vaughn's Seed Company for seven years. Allen comes to us from Butler, Pennsylvania where he has served as a Regional Horticulture Agent in 11 western Pennsylvania counties for 14 years.

We are very pleased to welcome such an experienced and highly regarded Extension agent to our staff. He will be making an effort to call on as many growers as possible this spring and summer to get acquainted with the growers and the horticultural industry of the state. If you need assistance, Allen can be called at 269-7788.

A REMINDER

Still available is the North Carolina manual "Commercial Poinsettia Production."

The price is \$2.00 plus 50¢ postage. To obtain a copy, send your check, along with your complete address to:

Publications Office  
308 Ricks Hall  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607