PROGRESS REPORT ON CARNATION TIMING

It takes longer to flower a carnation crop than many of us realize. Work is just getting under way at Colorado A & M on a comprehensive study of carnation timing, hence the results published here must be considered as only a small part of what we hope to be a complete picture in a few years.

David Wagner, CSFGA Research Fellow, presented by means of charts most of this material at the College Day in Fort Collins.

From a Single Pinch

Pink Patrician and Scarlet King benched as rooted cuttings June 27 and pinched August 1, produced their crops according to Figure 1, page 2. Pink Patrician cut its flowers over a period of about 10 weeks beginning with the 23rd week after pinching. Scarlet King cut few flowers until about the 30th week then cut over a period of ten weeks. The extreme peak cut for Pink Patrician was due in part to weather. Substantially all flowers were cut off in 33 weeks from the pinch for Pink Pat and 41 weeks for Scarlet King.

From a single pinch in the nursery bench on December 7, William Sim began cutting May 1 or 21 weeks after the pinch. The crop peaked in early June and 89 percent of the crop was cut by June 26.

Return Crops

William Sim cut the week following October 17, began cutting again February 11, but did not peak until April 15 or 26 weeks after the October cut. Two side breaks were left with the October cutting except on stems which had no side growth. The graph in Figure 2 illustrates 97 percent of the return crop which cut before July 1.

For a November 26 cut on William Sim and white Patrician the portion of the return crops cutting off by July 1 are shown graphically in Figure 3. An appreciable part of the return crop on Sim came in April and early May during the period from 19 to 24 weeks following the cut. However, only 49 percent of the crop from this variety was cut before June 1, 27% during June and 24% cut after July 1. White Patrician began cutting in late April and cut well in early May with 43% cut by June 1, 30% during June and 27% after July 1. White Patrician averaged about one week later than William Sim.

The top shoots developing from a cut bloomed three to four weeks sooner than the second shoots. Many of the second shoots did not develop far enough to be tagged and a smaller percent of those developing were cut before July 1, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Effect of Position of Stem on Number Developing and Time of Flowering

	Position	Numbering Developing	Percent not cut by July 1
White Patrician	top	70	17
	second	46	41
William Sim	top	108	12
	second	64	42