

## Age of Plants

'CSU White' carnations from a bench in its third year of production were compared with a first year bench of 'Atlantis.' The two benches were under different greenhouse structures. 'Atlantis' was being grown in four different temperature regimes so sample flowers from each were kept separately. Two tests were conducted in July, 1973, with a sample of 10 flowers from the third year bench and each of the four temperature regimes of the first year plants. The flowers from the bench in its third year of production kept almost 2 days longer than the first year flowers of 'Atlantis' (Table 3). The 4 temperature regimes in which 'Atlantis' was grown showed no effect on keeping life.

Table 3. A comparison of the keeping life of carnations from first year and third year plants.

Treatment	Mean keeping life
1. First year 'Atlantis'	6.6
2. Third year 'CSU White'	8.3

Comparisons were made on November 28 and December 15, 1973 of flowers sampled from a first year bench, a third year bench, and a fourth year bench. All were 'CSU White' in the same environment. A sample was taken from the first year 'Atlantis' mentioned above. Contrary to above, there was a definite trend to better keeping life in flowers from younger plants (Table 4).

Table 4. A comparison of the effects on keeping life of flowers from first year, third year, and fourth year plants.

Treatment	Mean keeping life
1. Fourth year 'CSU White'	5.5
2. Third year 'CSU White'	6.0
3. First year 'CSU White'	6.3
4. First year 'Atlantis'	7.8

These conflicting results reflect differing reports in previous work on effect of age of plants on keeping life. The possibility of an interaction between age of plants and time of the year is raised. Young plants may produce flowers that keep better in the winter than in the summer. The reverse would be true for the older plants. The results do indicate that age of plants can be considered a variability factor in potential keeping life of cut carnations.