

An Effect of Aster Yellow Virus on Carnation Blossoms

by W. D. Thomas, Jr.

A malformation of the blossoms of the carnation variety Hercules Virginia has been observed recently. The calyces of unopened buds were pinched and tight, the normal tipped peaks missing. Upon opening, the calyx appeared to have been chewed, the segments being indistinct; its length was only half that of a normal calyx, terminating at the point at which the sepals normally break from the calyx tube. The blossoms were somewhat stunted. Streak symptoms were observed on some affected plants. Approach grafts between affected and normal plants showing no streak symptoms resulted in the production of bud and blossom symptoms on the normal plants only when average daytime

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greenhouse temperatures exceeded 80 degrees F. Check plants remained unaffected. Plants producing malformed blossoms continued to produce such blossoms only as long as greenhouse daytime temperatures remained abnormally high. It was concluded that such malformation was due to a varietal expression of infection by the aster yellows virus, influenced by high temperatures.