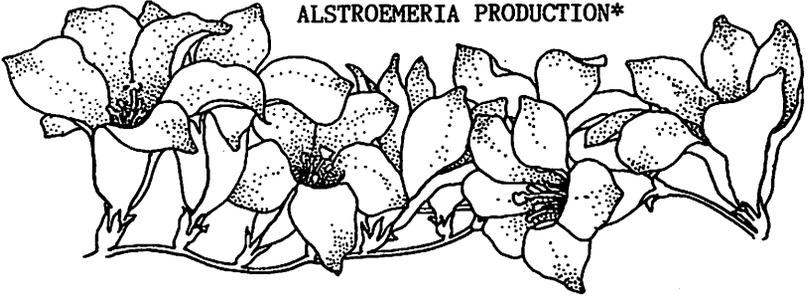


AN UPDATE ON POTTED
ALSTROEMERIA PRODUCTION*



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How did your potted Alstroemeria do this year? The 1987 schedules for Mother's Day and Easter worked for most people. A California grower called three weeks before Easter and said he had 1,000 pots that were in flower and asked what to do. One of the nice things about Alstroemeria is that you don't need to worry if they flower early; just cut off the flowering stems to ground level and new flowers will continue to be produced.

New Englander growers may have problems obtaining a nice full pot by the time of sale. Growers in low winter light areas should not refrigerate their plants. Instead, grow them in a cool greenhouse at 50°-60°F nights continuously from the time they are planted. This will allow the rhizomes to obtain the cool treatment they need for flowers and plant growth. This will help guarantee a bushy plant by the time of sale. Also, remember to space the pots out during the low light months; this will help keep the plants more compact.

When potting up the Alstroemeria, place the rhizome in the center of the pot with the growing points facing the perimeter of the pot. The rhizomes may branch, but generally they grow in one main direction. This will allow a full pot to form before sale.

Repotting and transplanting tend to dwarf Alstroemeria. The Gloeckner Foundation and the American Floral Endowment are currently funding our research into this phenomena as well as the use of growth regulators. More on this later.

Please keep me up to date on your success; we still have a lot to learn about these exciting new plants!

* For cultural directions see Greenhouse Newsletter, Number 137, January, 1987.