



BULLETIN

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CALCEOLARIA FOR EVERYDAY SALES

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Interested in an attractive potted plant you can produce in 4 months at 60°F night temperature? Here is our experience with plants produced for our commercial floriculture class in spring of 1981.

Generally, calceolaria are considered to require a period of low temperature (below 60°) especially under natural short day conditions. But apparently the F₁ hybrid 'ANYTIME' series does *not* need the low temperature. In our tests, seed sown in January gave salable plants in April, when grown continuously at 60-62° night temperature.

The three varieties were Red Shades with bright scarlet red flowers and no markings, Clear Rose which were a deep rose color, and Yellow Spotted, which had yellow flowers with small reddish-brown spots.

Seed was sown in peat-lite germinating mix on January 6, 1981. The Red Shades and Clear Rose seedlings grew rapidly and were transplanted directly on February 6 into 4-inch pots of a mix of equal parts of soil, sphagnum peat moss and perlite with a little 10-10-10, regular superphosphate, and ground limestone. Subsequent fertilization was with a 200 ppm N-200 ppm K solution at every watering. The Yellow Spotted seedlings grew more slowly and were transplanted February 18. The growing temperature was 60-62°F (15-16°C) at night and 70-77°F during day-time.

Plants were quite compact as shown in Figure 1, but Red Shades tended to be a little too large for standard 4-inch pots. Probably 4½ inch standard, or 5-inch three quarter-height pots would be better. The Yellow Spotted variety tended to be slower growing but more compact and gave excellent plants in 4-inch pots (Figure 2).

The dates when the first flower had developed color was recorded. Actual sale dates would be a week later.

Blooming (first flower) dates

Variety	Number of plants	First plant in bloom	Half of the plants in bloom by	Last plant in bloom	Total blooming period (days)
Red Shades	23	March 25	April 5	April 16	22
Clear Rose	24	March 30	April 6	April 16	16
Yellow Spotted	27	April 6	April 12	April 17	13

(continued on page 2)

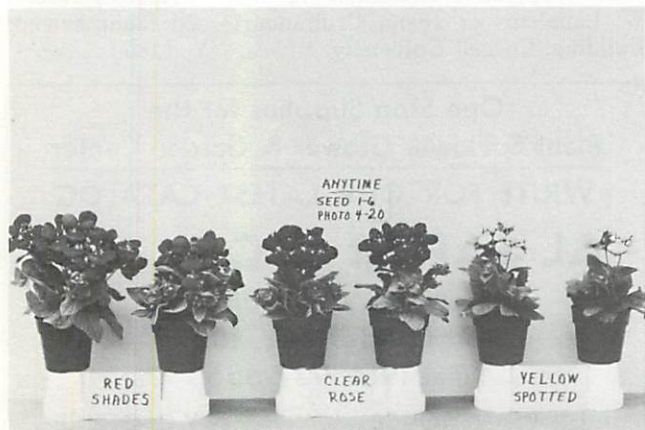


Figure 1. 'ANYTIME' calceolaria in standard 4-inch plastic pots, 15 weeks from sowing seed to time of photo.

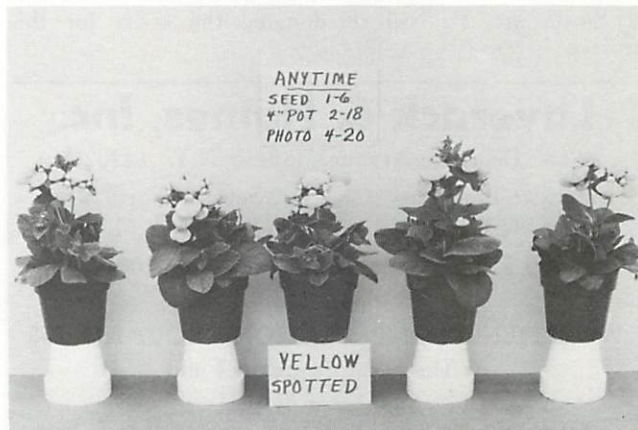


Figure 2. Note the compactness of 'ANYTIME' Yellow Spotted calceolaria in standard 4-inch pots.

Seeley Awarded Medal for Contributions to Horticulture

John G. Seeley, a nationally recognized plant scientist at Cornell University, is the recipient of the 1980 Silver Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The Cornell scientist was honored for his research accomplishments, particularly those dealing with plant nutrition, growth regulators, automatic watering, and photoperiodism critical for production of numerous types of horticultural crops.

Seeley received the medal at the Society's awards dinner held at Horticultural Hall in Boston. This past summer, Seeley was named president-elect of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences (ASHS); he is expected to take the helm of this national organization next year. ASHS honored Seeley in 1970 by electing him a Fellow of the Society.

Previously, Seeley received the Leonard H. Vaughan Memorial Award from ASHS for his contribution in research and education. He also was honored with the Foundation for Floriculture Research and Education Award from the Society of American Florists which, in 1979, honored Seeley for the second time by naming him to the "Floricultural Hall of Fame" in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of floriculture.

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A smaller group of plants was grown in a cooler house, 50°F nights when possible, but not attainable as spring progressed. The plants grew satisfactorily but flowering was delayed 1 to 2 weeks depending on variety.

In April as weather became brighter, a single layer of cheesecloth was used to prevent fading of the Red Shades and Clear Rose.

In Pennsylvania, R. T. German found that a March 25 sowing produced plants in good bloom June 20 in the garden.

This Calceolaria series appears to have potential as a rapidly maturing crop providing interesting and colorful plants in small sizes for the "everyday trade". Well worth trying!

Appreciation is expressed to H. G. German Seeds, Inc. of Smethport, Pa., which donated the seeds for this project.



Students and faculty members from the Ornamental Horticulture Department at State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College at Alfred pose with awards received this fall as Alfred placed first in the New York State Flower Industries Student Design competition at Grossinger's. From left are faculty member Joan Kennedy, Beth Ann Pilbeam, Valerie Prohaska, Jill Wheelock, Jennifer Schlaufman, Jay Bill Pritchard, Carolynne Solak, faculty member Morris Mead, Marcia Lee Potter, Susan Curri, Constance Smith and Brenda Lee Shetler. Prohaska, Schlaufman and Solak display arrangements which earned them first place medals. The other students won either second or third place medals.

Cornell Floriculture Research Open House

Members of the floriculture industry and other interested persons are invited to the Floriculture Research Open House at Cornell University scheduled for January 14, 1982.

The day-long program features a series of presentations on the latest research developments in floriculture. Also planned are tours of research projects in greenhouses and laboratories.

The event, held every two years, is sponsored by the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell. There will be no registration fee.

The program will start at 9:00 a.m. in James Law Auditorium with presentations by researchers from the Departments of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics, Entomology and Plant Pathology.

For additional information about the program, contact your Cooperative Extension Agent, or Professor Robert W. Langhans or Joann Gruttadaurio, 20 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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