

Can Calyx Splitting on Carnations be Reduced
by Delay of Disbudding?
by W. D. Holley

On two dates (March 2 and April 8) during the spring splitting period in 1952, large samples of Frosted Pink Patrician Carnation buds were tagged. Large buds were selected as a stage just prior to disbudding. The buds were tagged at random, roughly half of them were disbudded at the usual time as soon as all side buds were clear, and the other half were not disbudded until almost ready to cut.

A record was kept of the number of buds tagged, and the degree of splitting on the calyx of each flower. These follow in the accompanying table.

Table 1.--The effect of delay of disbudding on calyx splitting of carnations

| Treatment | No. of buds tagged | Percent full split | Percent part split | Percent not split |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Disbudded early (1) | 92 | 15.2 | 51.1 | 33.7 |
| Disbudded late (1) | 92 | 22.8 | 47.8 | 29.4 |
| Disbudded early (2) | 82 | 2.4 | 40.2 | 57.3 |
| Disbudded late (2) | 66 | 9.1 | 56.1 | 34.8 |

Delayed disbudding gave more full splits but it is doubtful if the increase is significant statistically. At any rate, these results indicate that there is

no possibility of reducing splitting by a delay of disbudding.

Another interesting observation from this study was the delay in flowering brought about by the delay in disbudding. A cutting record from the first treatment appears in the following table.

Table 2.--The effect of delayed disbudding on time of flowering of carnations
Number of flowers cut

| Treatment | March 28 | March 31 | April 2 | April 4 | April 7 | April 9 | April 11 | April 14 | April 16 | April 18 | April 21 | Total |
|-----------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Disbudded early | 1 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 23 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 92 |
| Disbudded late | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 21 | 15 | 21 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 92 |

Late disbudding delayed the development of the flower two to three days during this late March and early April period. The delay was less pronounced in the second treatment which included late April and early May.

Your editor,

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