

CARNATION STORAGE STUDIES

Uota and Garazsi recently reported the results of their work on quality and display life of carnation blooms after storage in controlled atmospheres (USDA-ARS Marketing Research Report No. 796). They indicate that the quality of blooms stored in 0.5% oxygen atmospheres was better after 4 to 5 weeks storage than that of blooms held in air. Display life was only slightly prolonged but the incidence of decay in storage was reduced.

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) added to the low oxygen atmosphere did not increase storage life of blooms. Carnations held at 32°F . for 4-5 weeks developed petal injury regardless of amount of oxygen in the atmosphere. Storage at 36°F . greatly lessened this injury.