

CHEMICAL PRUNING OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND AZALEAS

Field experimentation is now in progress to determine the effectiveness and usefulness of certain chemical pruning ("pinching") agents on chrysanthemums and azaleas. In the San Francisco Bay Area the work is being done under the direction of Dr. Tok Furuta, Extension Ornamental Horticulturist, and Dr. Raymond E. Hasek, Extension Floriculturist. Cooperating in these studies with Bay Area farm advisors are: McCahon-Dahlen Nursery, Half Moon Bay; Sunnyside Nursery, Hayward; and Bay City Floral Company, Santa Clara.

The investigations on chrysanthemums are part of a nationwide project conducted by Dr. H. M. "Marc" Cathey, Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Maryland, and sponsored by the Society of American Florists. Emery Industries, Inc., and Proctor and Gamble are supplying the chemical pruning agents. So far, the experiments look very promising on chrysanthemums and azaleas. However, more developmental research needs to be done before these chemicals can be recommended for commercial usage.