

Cut Flower Keeping Life

We at CSU are most concerned with the stage of cutting roses and carnations and the effects of hard water on the value of preservative solutions. The keeping life may be reduced by as much as 50% by hard water and many of the consumers of Colorado Carnations and Colorado Roses are located in hard-water belts. Buds placed in hard water with the best preservative solutions do not open satisfactorily. The petals darken, especially on roses, and the eventual size is smaller when compared to opening in soft water.

The requirements for sugar and microbiocides are different in hard and soft water. Optimum sugar content in the preservative solution is most important to maximum flower size. S. P. Sadasivaiah and Mary Ferris are working on roses and carnations this summer with the hopes of coming up with the right solutions to the hard-water problem. It may be so important that retail florists will want to deionize the water in which they send out cut flowers in such areas as Sidney, Nebraska and Littlefield, Texas.