

## Dry Cold Storage

# Tests on Cut Flower Life of Carnations

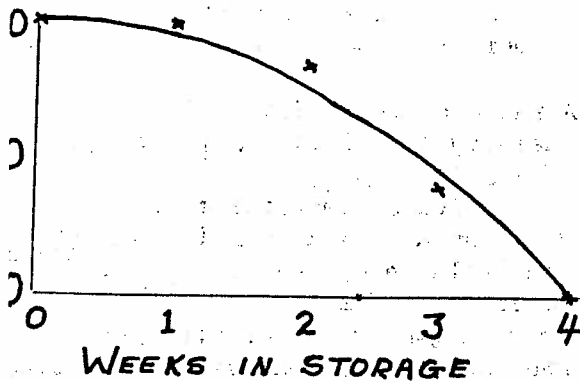
by W.D. Holley and Brian Matthews

A series of three tests were designed to measure the effects of time in storage on mean life of cut carnations. On September 30, October 19, and November 10, 15 flowers of Sim varieties were placed in the 70°F keeping room in flower preservative solution. At the same time flowers were packed in a flower shipping box for storage at 33°F. The box was lined with 1½ mil polyethylene and three thicknesses of newspaper were placed under the flowers to absorb excess moisture. The polyethylene was folded over the flowers to prevent excessive drying while in storage. Fifteen flowers were removed from storage at weekly intervals up to 4 weeks and their cut flower life measured in the keeping room.

The cut flower life is plotted as a percentage of the life of fresh flowers before storage (Fig. 1). Since mechanical failure to the controlled keeping room effected the life of flowers in the 4-week storage treatment, only the mean for the

test is used for this period. Other on the graph are average for the tests. Mean life of the fresh flow- fore storage was as follows: Septem- -- 7.2 days; October 19 -- 8.5 days; vember 10 -- 11.1 days.

ne cut flower life of carnations... one week under these conditions was o that of unstored flowers. Flowers two weeks lost an average of 3 per



Effect of time in 33°F storage on carnation cut flower life.

FLOWER GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
OFFICE OF EDITOR  
W. D. HOLLEY  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado

FIRST CLASS

cent of their life, those stored three weeks lost 12, and those stored four weeks lost 20 per cent of their fresh flower life respectively.

Conditions under which the flowers are stored greatly effects their post storage life. A carefully-controlled cold tempera- ture is essential as is the prevention of excessive drying or accumulation of mois- ture on the flowers. The flowers on the bottom of the pack may be damaged if placed directly on moist polyethylene. Newspaper is effective in preventing this damage. Car- nations store quite successfully at a tem- perature of 33°F.

\*\*\*\*\*

Your editor,

*W.D. Holley*

o  
c  
f  
l  
l  
a  
t  
p  
e  
a