

EASTER CHRYSANTHEMUMS

by Roger Farmer

Ten varieties of pompons were benched 8 x 8 inches December 10, 1949. Five "76-day" varieties (Matchless, Golden Mensa, Soprano, Little America and Sea Gull) were lighted from December 10 to January 19. Five "66-day" varieties (Pinocchio, Masterpiece, Gold Coast, Arcadia and Shasta) were lighted until January 29. Three hours of light were supplied each night from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. The night temperature was 60° F.

All varieties were divided into five groups of ten plants each. These groups were pinched December 20, 25, 30, January 4 and 9 respectively. This allowed the plants to grow 10 to 30 days before pinching. The resulting shoots were thinned to three. Table I shows the performance of nine varieties. Most of the plants of Matchless did not grow normally, hence this variety does not appear in the table.

Comments:

1. Fifteen days after planting is about the optimum time to pinch.
2. Golden Mensa fades quickly in this climate so must be cut tight if grown for spring flowering.
3. Arcadia was found to be more nearly a 60-day variety.
4. Shasta can be benched 2 to 3 weeks later than in this experiment. Since it is not a heavy grower it could be benched 6 x 8 inches to give more production per square foot.
5. To get more stem length on Little America and Sea Gull, they should be benched ten days earlier than was done in this trial.
6. Pinocchio showed quite a bit of pollen on the lateral flowers. We are told this variety is better for June to November flowering.

TABLE II

Recommended Schedule*

Variety	Benching Date	Pinching Date	Stop Lighting	No. Short Days	Blooming Period
Pinocchio	Dec. 10	Dec. 25	Jan. 29	66	April 3-8
Masterpiece	Dec. 10	Dec. 25	Jan. 29	66	April 5-8
Shasta	Dec. 30	Jan. 14	Jan. 29	66	April 3-8
Gold Coast	Dec. 10	Dec. 25	Jan. 29	66	April 3-8
Arcadia	Dec. 10	Dec. 25	Feb. 4	60	April 3-8
Soprano	Dec. 10	Dec. 25	Jan. 19	76	March 31-April 8
Little America	Dec. 1	Dec. 15	Jan. 19	76	March 27-April 5
Sea Gull	Dec. 1	Dec. 15	Jan. 19	76	March 27-April 5
Golden Mensa	Dec. 10	Dec. 25	Jan. 25	70	April 2-6

*These dates for an April 9 Easter. Dates should be adjusted according to the date of Easter.