

Robertson, J. L. and G. L. Staby. 1976. Economic feasibility of once-over bud harvest of standard chrysanthemums. HortScience: 11:159-160.

The economic efficiency for labor and space requirements for traditional flower harvesting was compared to that of bud harvesting. Results indicated direct material costs for bud harvesting standard chrysanthemums were 36% greater than traditional harvesting with 3 crops per year, and 25% greater than flower harvesting with 3.25 crops per year. For once-over bud harvested mums, achieving 3.9 crops per year, direct material costs per hectare averaged \$143,360 compared to \$105,482 per hectare (3 crops per year) and \$114,253 per hectare, (3.25 crops per year).

From time and space studies, the opening area requirements for bud harvesting were determined to be 25 stems per square meter of floor area. For a one acre production facility, with an average monthly output of 27,000 stems, the opening area requirements would be 160 square meters.

Direct labor requirements for once-over bud harvesting were 37% greater. The labor costs per 1000 blooms was \$13.15 compared to \$8.25 for traditional harvesting. Bud harvesting required more direct labor for placement of flowers into buckets at harvest and removal when mature. However, the once-over harvest and easier handling of bud cut flowers result in greater adaptability of labor specialization.

Bud harvesting, however, offered net returns as much as 17% greater than for current practices. Actual net returns were almost 66-fold greater for the bud harvesting technology. These returns converted to an annual return on investment of less than 6% for flower harvesting and almost 25% for bud harvesting. Increases from bud harvesting

more than compensated for corresponding increases in variable costs. Bud harvesting was the most economically efficient system for standard mum production because it enabled producers to increase gross revenue through greater productivity.

(one hectare = 2.2 acres)