

# Emergency Heating System\*

It will soon be time to think about heating and what can be done in case of an emergency. We are indebted to Fred Hellberg, Bird-in-Hand, Pa., for spotting this system while on a trip to the Denver area.

Jack Davis, Davis Brothers Florists' Inc., Denver, Colorado, passed on the details of the methanol alcohol emergency heating system that they are using. We thought that some of the growers in this area might be interested in this different approach—especially since it requires a minimum amount of an investment.

Here are the details: 16 - five quart paint buckets (the metal ones that nest) are used for 10,000 square feet of ground area covered. Each bucket is filled with about one gallon of methanol alcohol. A gallon of the alcohol will burn approximately two hours and puts out over 30,000 B.T.U.'s. Each grower has at least a four-hour supply of alcohol.

In the Davis Brothers set-up, there are 44 growers and each grower has enough buckets for their own greenhouse range. Incidentally, the Davis Brothers group has over 2,000 buckets plus a reserve of nearly 6,000 gallons of methanol alcohol stored away for any emergency.

The set-up by Davis Brothers is divided so that the greenhouse having a problem, merely calls on other greenhouses for assistance. The system has not been used by any of the Davis Brothers growers, but they reported that the emergency system really works. They pitched in to help a neighboring florist who had boiler trouble and the alcohol cans saved that grower from freezing.

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