

## Fast Schedule Chrysanthemums

by Walter F. Larsen

### December 20 Planting

The results of our first fast schedule chrysanthemums were reported in CFG Bul. 63. Rooted cuttings of 10-week varieties that were benched October 4, lighted 7 days and pinched, cut off December 13 to 23. They occupied a bench 81 days and averaged 10 to 14 inches of stem. At that time it was thought that another week of lights before pinching would have lengthened stems to an average of eighteen inches. To test the effect of longer lighting periods, two schedules were set up.

Variety	Flw. period	Days in bench	Fls. per Sq. ft.	Mean length
Amber Bright	3/4 to 3/22	92	8.78	13.36
Yellow Ivanhoe	Same	92	12.07	11.70
Belray	Same	92	11.21	15.78
Sunup	Same	92	11.36	11.17
Illini Igloo	3/10 to 3/21	91	12.57	9.77
Orange Beauregard	3/14 to 3/28	98	10.50	15.22
Beauregard	Same	98	10.14	14.77
Yellow Pockett	3/17 to 3/29	99	8.93	20.45
Almega	Same	99	11.28	17.26

Thirty-six rooted cuttings of 9 varieties were benched December 20, lighted 18 days, pinched January 7 and given long nights. Yellow Pockett and Almega were from the 11-week response group while all the others are considered 10-week varieties. All plants were thinned to 4 breaks on January 29 except for Yellow Pockett which was thinned to three.

The two 11-week varieties approached our goal of 18-inch stems. All other varieties were shorter. Illini Igloo, Yellow Ivanhoe, and Sunup produced considerable trash in addition to being in the shortest group. Beauregard and Orange Beauregard produced heavy flowered sprays and responded more like 11-week varieties under this schedule. Belray was soft and broke easily. The flowers of Amber Bright had good substance. The quality of both Yellow Pockett and Almega was good, Yellow Pockett having much stronger stems than in the fall.

In a second schedule, 36 rooted cuttings of 4 varieties of standards and 5 varieties of poms were benched January 7, lighted 21 days, pinched and given long nights. All varieties except Jean Elizabeth were in the 10-week response group. The plants were thinned to 4 breaks on February 19.

### January 7 Planting

Variety	Flw. period	Time in Bench	Fls. per sq. ft.	Mean length
Yellow Shasta	4/4 to 4/13	97	11.50	12.48
Shasta	Same	97	12.21	12.61
Orchid Queen	Same	97	10.43	12.43
Yellow Queen	Same	97	9.50	10.96
Monument	Same	97	10.00	9.21
Whitetop	Same	97	11.78	10.56
Starlite	Same	97	9.00	10.10
Portrait	Same	97	11.47	11.83
Jean Elizabeth	4/8 to 4/17	101	9.86	12.83

All varieties occupied a producing bench 97 days except Jean Elizabeth which required an additional 4 days. Monument and Starlite lacked substance and did not keep well after cutting. Both Shasta varieties produced excellent quality although the spray was limited to two or three flowers. Yellow and Orchid Queen and Jean Elizabeth produced fine flowers on heavy stems. The quality of Portrait was excellent.

No additional stem length was gained by lighting longer than 7 days when plants were pinched at the beginning of long nights. Pinching should be done in 5-7 days after planting, and lighting continued one or two weeks after pinching depending upon length of stem desired. As we have grown chrysanthemums in these three schedules, additional lighting gave taller plants but the additional height was below the point of branching.

On the taller 10-week varieties stems averaging about 12 inches may be produced by pinching when long nights are started. Flowers of this length with good quality can be produced in from 80 to 90 days.

The best varieties for fast schedule growing of those tried in these three schedules are:

Orchid and Yellow Queen, Indianapolis and its sports, Shasta and its sports, Jean Elizabeth, Whitetop, Portrait, Amber Bright, Beaugard and Orange Beaugard.

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We wish to express our thanks to Yoder Bros., Inc., of Barberton, Ohio for supplying the chrysanthemum cuttings used in these tests.

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### LIQUID FEEDING SOLUTION

For an all purpose liquid feeding solution that is almost neutral in pH we are using per 1000 gallons of water

2.8 lbs. ammonium nitrate  
0.6 lbs. sodium nitrate, and  
1.6 lbs. muriate of potash.

This fertilizer solution is applied at every irrigation.

Your editor,

*W.D. Holley*



Thanks to Superior Bulb Co., Lorne Park, Ont.