

GROWING SNAPDRAGONS AT 60° DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

Frequently we are asked to recommend flowers that could be grown along with a winter crop of chrysanthemums. William Duffet of Yoder Brothers of Barberton, Ohio, reports in GROWER TALKS, Vol. 24, Number 3 for July, 1960 that some of the new varieties of snapdragons grown at 60° F with chrysanthemums gave very impressive results. You may want to try them out but do so only on small scale until you learn what the new varieties will do for you under your greenhouse conditions. Mr. Duffet also found that these varieties matured in about the same time that it took for a single stemmed chrysanthemum crop. Quoting from a paragraph in his article, "Our observation showed that the quality was as good and frequently better than we were producing with the winter varieties in other houses at 50° F. We had no wilt problems at 60°F; the warmer soils and more rapid drying out appeared to correct this problem. Very little or no grass produced. Stems were solid and firm. Keeping quality and color were outstanding. The same lights used on mums were allowed to hit the snaps. The lights seemed to improve and accelerate the flowering."

Mr. Duffert found the following list to be the best varieties under his conditions:- Virginia (paper white); Kentucky (light pink); Colorado (yellow); Tennessee (red) and the Potomac variety of yellow which flowered much later.

Suggested sowing dates for winter flowering:-

SOW	BENCH	START FLOWER	FLOWERING COMPLETE
Sept. 7	Sept. 28	Jan. 18	Feb. 8
Sept. 14	Oct. 12	Feb. 8	Feb. 22
Sept. 28	Oct. 26	Mar. 7	Mar. 28

WARNING! Because this research is of a preliminary nature, growers should try this growing of snaps at 60° F on a very limited scale only. With the shipments of chrysanthemums arriving from the South and West and at the

prices they get, it might be well to consider this as an alternative plan of production to meet the changing times.