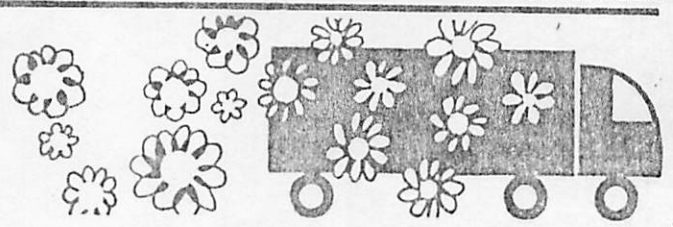


Flower Growing & Marketing



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by Seward T. Besemer, Farm Advisor
University of California
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Gypsophila Post-Harvest Treatment

There are so many ways to handle flowers and different flowers require different treatments.

The best suggestion for handling gypsophila is to harvest stems which have on them 30 percent open flowers. Place in a solution of 5 to 10 percent sugar plus 200 ppm of Physan (a swimming pool chlorine product). Leave in this solution for 48 hours at room temperature (68-72°F), then refrigerate overnight.

The above treatment should:-

- (1) Help stems to better take winter,
- (2) Eliminate the problem of old, brown flowers,
- (3) Make your customers more satisfied.

Preventing Neck Droop in Roses

Has anyone tried the suggestion of Dr. Paul Rasmussen's of Michigan State University? He claims that rose neck droop can be completely eliminated if:-

- (1) After cutting, roses are wrapped in plastic, without being placed in water!
- (2) Stored in a cool, dark place for 6 to 12 hours.
- (3) Roses cut late in the day have less bent necks.

Dr. Rasmussen says that the dark period is most important. Just perhaps, the best schedule might be to cut this afternoon, place them in plastic wrappers or bags in the refrigerator (without lights) until tomorrow morning. Then grade them and return to a preservative solution until they are sold.

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