

HANGING HANGING-POTS

Roy W. Judd, Jr.
Extension Horticulturist

Hanging pots have become extremely popular with the public the past two years. To meet this demand, most growers have started producing them. They can be grown in areas not utilized by other crops. This provides more dollar return per square foot.

Where do growers hang hanging pots? Everywhere! They can be found hanging from every purlin, cross-arm, nail and wire in the greenhouse. In fact, some growers hang hanging pots from hanging pots. Some greenhouse operators should issue hard hats to all employees and visitors to prevent concussions as they walk through the houses. OSHA would have a "field day" in many greenhouses. In one part of the country, they require that the containers be hung 7 1/2 feet above the walk.

In glass houses, most pots are hung from the existing framework or pipes placed on the cross-arms. This overhead structure is not available in most plastic houses. In the wooden structure houses, many are simply hung from nails (figure 1). One enterprising grower nailed chicken wire to the rafters inside the house and hung pots from it (figures 2 and 3). This grower is using a peat-lite mix to grow in, otherwise the weight of the pots with soil might pull the house down. Others have built wooden frames and strung wire across it for pots.

A few growers have built racks to grow hangers on. One is a wooden frame with 1 inch pipes which

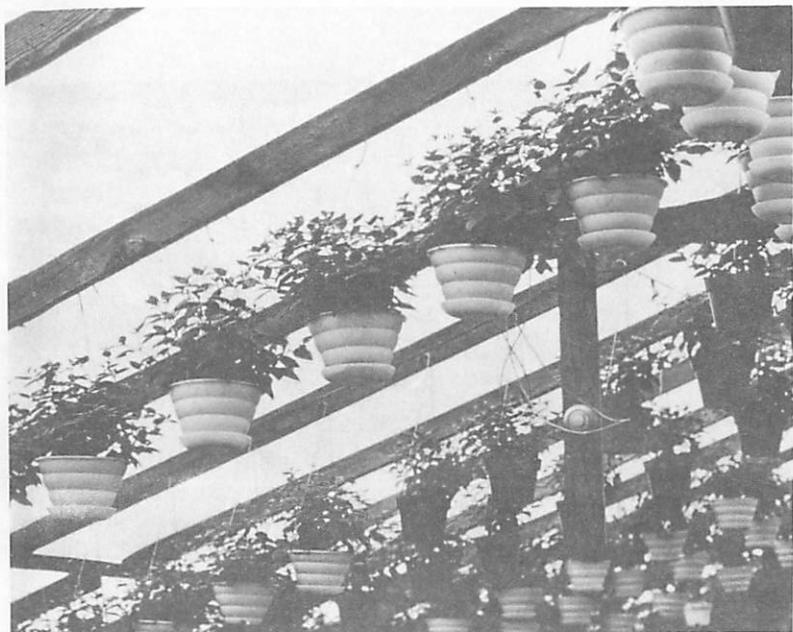


Figure 1

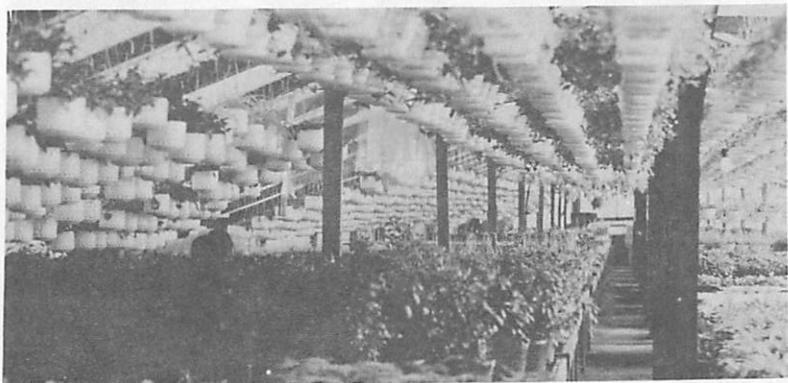


Figure 2

will hold 63 pots (figure 4). Another rack is made from 2-inch pipe with arms made from reinforcing rods (figure 5). This rack will hold 190 pots. Finally, triangular shaped racks are appearing in many greenhouses (figure 6).

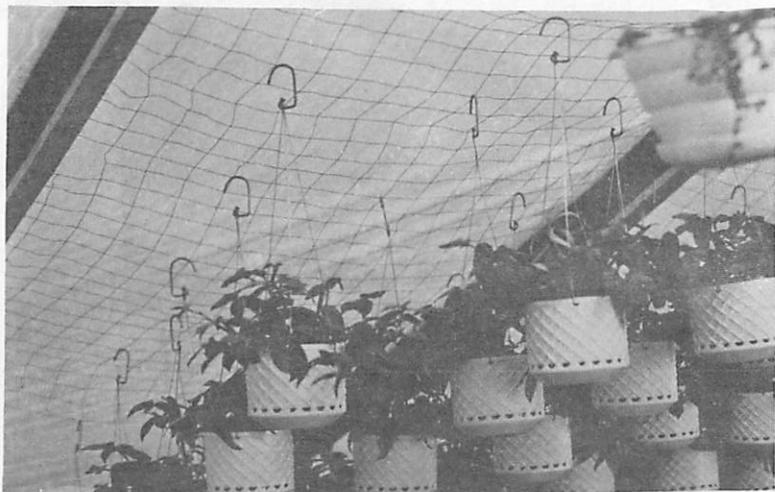


Figure 3

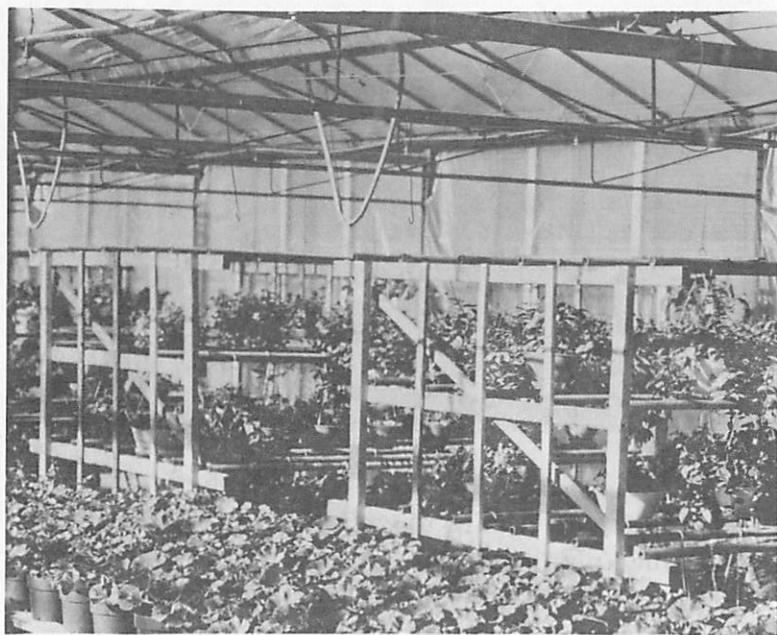


Figure 4



Figure 5

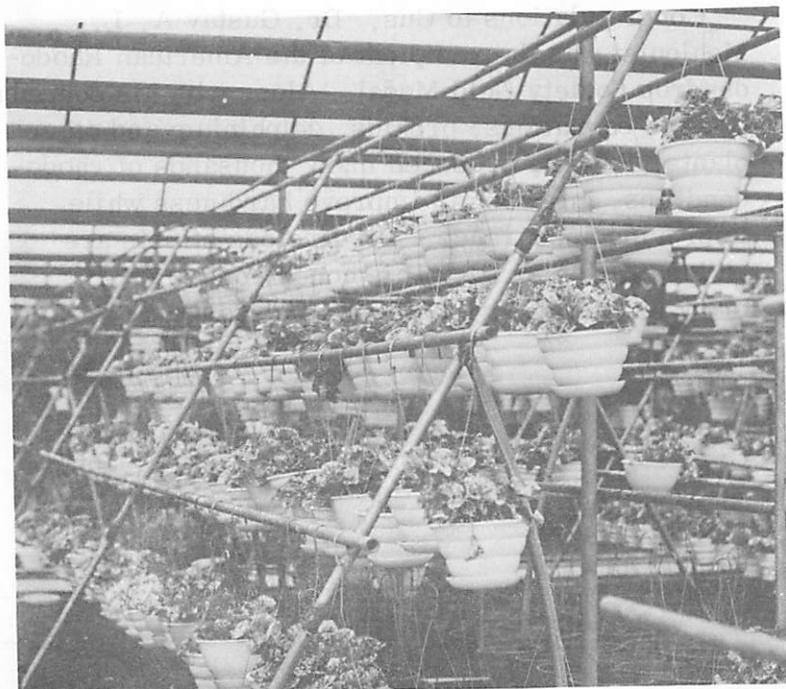


Figure 6

Hanging pots should be set up with automatic watering. The spaghetti system is probably the best one to use. This will save time when watering and fertilizing.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Gus. Dr. Gustav A. L. Mehlquist was the recipient of the American Rhododendron Society Gold Medal. Along with his contributions to carnations, orchids, delphinium and other plants, Gus has produced many thousands of rhododendrons, intending to improve hardiness while improving appearance. His tireless efforts are an inspiration to all. This honor, one among many he has received, is richly deserved.