

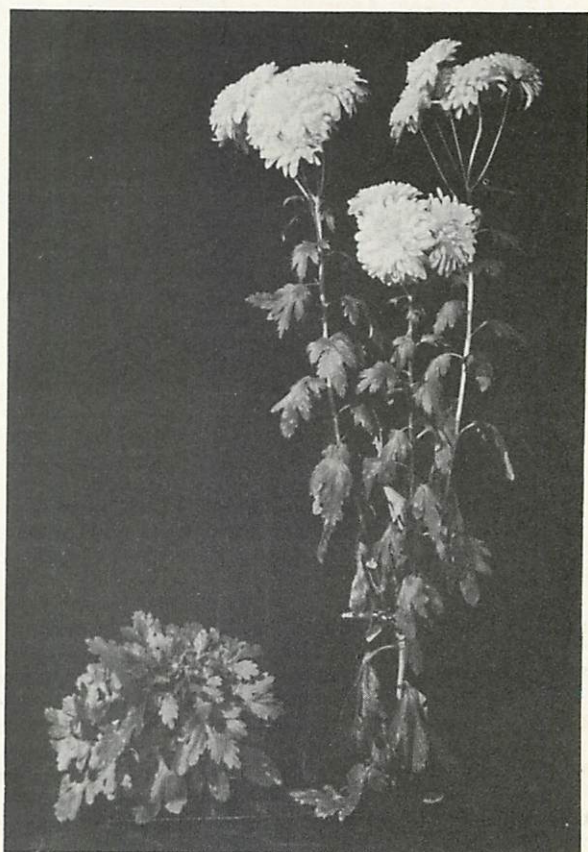
Hard Pinch and Chrysanthemum Blindness

Blindness in chrysanthemums was observed in 1933 following late pinching in hard wood. The effects of low temperature was later found associated with blindness following late pinching. The result of our work on temperature was a necessary fundamental finding which enabled us to grow chrysanthemums in the winter and spring.

This past winter we were conducting some pinching tests on pompon types and found Goldsmith came blind following a pinch into the mature wood. Similar plants grew and bloomed normally if pinched soft (tip only removed). The minimum night temperature was 60° F in the house. Temperature was controlled by thermostats and it dropped to 60° at 5 p.m. remaining there until 8 a.m.

Similar pinching during the late summer gave no blindness. Probably the 60° temperature is too low for a late pinch on this variety or not enough light is available in winter to permit stem growth from the hard pinch.

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GOLDSMITH

Left, pinched into hard wood. Right, tip pinched. Grown at 60° night temperature.