

INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE ON FLOWERING OF *LEUCOSPERMUM* *CORDIFOLIUM*

Weekly harvest of selected plants of *Leucospermum cordifolium* at the Kula Station on Maui and from a commercial planting were plotted against time to determine: 1) the number of heat units* which accumulated between September 1 and the time that 50% of the flowers were harvested, and 2) the duration of the period during which the mid-50% of flowers were harvested. Yield data from three seasons were available from the experiment station plants. Over these 3 seasons, the average heat unit requirement for 50% cut ranged from 1750 to 2500 with close agreement among years for selected plants. Certain clones, however, had great deviation due to a more or less continuous flowering habit. The commercial planting had an accumulation of approximately 2300 heat units to the mid-50% harvest point during the 1976-1977 season. Clonal differences were observed in the duration of the mid-50% harvest period with the most consistent plants across 3 years producing half the crop in 22 to 60 days. A short peak was more likely in January-February than earlier or later in the season.

There were some differences among years, but whether these were due to the weather or ad-

* Heat unit is defined as the difference between 40°F and the daily average temperature for each day.

vancing maturity of the plants was not clear. In 1972–1973 an average of 2200 heat units were needed to the start of the mid-50% harvest while 1750 heat units were needed in 1973–1974 and 1540 in 1974–1975. In 1976–1977, the commercial planting required 1750 heat units to the start of the mid-50% harvest with another 550 to the mid-harvest (50% cut) point.

JoAnne Troy
Graduate Student
Department of Horticulture