

Is Summer Heating Practical?

Around last August 1, the Denver market was flooded with malformed flowers. From a negligible percentage of slab-sides and bullheads the number increased to 20 or 30% in the last few days of July. The flurry was over by around August 8. Since all growers were producing these the first cause sought was previous weather. Five cool nights in succession from July 14-18 are the prime suspect as to the cause of these malformed flowers. Low temperatures of 50 and 51° were measured at the Denver airport. At this same time maximum day temperatures of 84 to 94 were measured.

Looking at the Denver summer temperatures further reveals that minimum night temperatures as low as 43° occur two or three times in June of most years. Fifty degree minimums occur occasionally in July. August usually has several temperatures in the forties after the middle of the month.

Since most growers have heat available why not set the heating thermostats at 60° for summer night temperature and turn the boiler on any night the forecast is for below 55°? Possibly even better still would be to turn on the boiler with a thermostat exposed to outside temperatures so that heat would be available when the houses called for it.

When is the best time to have your boiler shut down for routine repairs? Most years there are fewer cold nights the first two weeks of August.