

# RECENT AND GOOD

## "LITTLELEAF NECROSIS" OF CARNATION

Dr. Harry Kohl, Dan Smith, and others have investigated this carnation problem in California for several years, and have come up with answers. The problem involves the upper leaves just before flowers mature and may be related to death of points on the calyx. These workers found extremely low potassium content of the affected leaves — as little as 0.25%, when normal healthy leaves on the lower stem contain a range of 4.0 to 5.0% potassium. During flower development K was being depleted from these little leaves. When the depletion reached 0.50% or less, severe necrosis was apparent. Healthy leaves also decreased in K content but their potassium levels remained higher than those of necrotic leaves. Fewer cases of "littleleaf necrosis" have been seen in Colorado, possibly because potassium feeding rates are usually higher than those used by some California growers.