



---

IN COOPERATION WITH COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
Richard Kingman, Executive Director  
2785 N. Speer Blvd. , Suite 230, Denver, Colorado 80211

---

Bulletin 269

October 1972

## **MINI CARNATIONS IN SWEDEN**

**W. D. HOLLEY**

We have heard reports that the popularity of small spray carnations is increasing at a rapid rate in northern Europe. Karl Wikesjö, extension specialist for the south county of Sweden, visited us recently, giving a report from the scene of action.

Costs, especially for labor, are rising in Sweden and Germany even faster than they are in this country. Standard carnations have been especially hampered by this cost-price squeeze. Producers are looking for crops other than standard carnations that promise higher gross returns. More miniature carnations and more sweetheart roses are being planted each year. Around 35 percent of the carnations grown in Sweden are minis and, according to Karl, they are on the increase.

They are learning more about control of flowering each year. Pixie carnations are grown 4-7F warmer than standard carnations with soil temperature not below 55F. They plant early enough to get two crops per year. Since winters are very dark they may light both crops as sufficient growths are developed.

Around mid-February when advanced shoots are long enough (5 to 7 leaf pairs), d-d lighting is turned on for two weeks, lights are off for 2 to 3 weeks, and then they are turned on for another two weeks. This lighting schedule lengthens the crop of flowers with less overloading of the plants. Lighting in August for the early winter crop may be accomplished with one period of 2 to 3 weeks, or when plants carry a heavier load of

breaks, they may light 10 days followed by two weeks off followed by lights on for another 10 days.

Response of the different varieties to lighting is variable, according to Karl's experience. He includes Elegance and Exquisite and their sports in the most responsive group. Lilli-ann, Sam's Pride, and Peachy are moderately responsive to lighting. Least responsive are the Royalettes, Tony and sports, Lisa, and Orange Elf. Some of the varieties are either not grown in Sweden, or their experience in lighting these varieties is too brief. Tom Homan is screening many pixie varieties for lighting response this year at CSU.