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Freesia Cultivar Trials (K. Heidmans and J.H. Stolk)

Effects of Shading on the Time of Flowering, Quality and Yields of Freesias in Autumn (J.C. Doorduin)

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Thirty-two cultivars were planted the third week of October in order to assess the possibilities for spring flowering. The cultivars recommended for further trials were 'Adagio', 'Allure', 'Animato', 'Blue Bell', 'Bolero', 'Caravelle', 'Destiny', 'Leda', 'Mirabel', 'Mistral', '4310-B_1', '77-238-A_1', '77-269-1', '297735' and '297704'. Preliminary trials at Aalsmeer recommended the cultivars 'Excelsior', 'Lorelei', 'Rainde', 'Vesta', 'Princess of Wales', and 'Yellow Sea'.

A series of decisive cultivar trials for autumn flowering were carried out in 1982, duplicated at two nurseries, with and without soil cooling. The final results will be published in 1984.

For summer flowering, the cultivars recommended for further work included 'Arundel', 'Blue Navy', 'Etna', 'Lippizaner', 'Marianne', 'Pink Glow', 'White Wings', 'Iceberg', 'Angelique', 'Athene', 'Butterfly', 'Golden Rocks', 'Helios', 'Magdalena', 'Pallas', 'Panama', 'Polaris', 'Solidor', 'Ural', and 'Welkii'.

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Yields increased with decreasing shading and ranged between 125 to 235 flower stems per sq.m. net. The highest yields were produced by 'Rosalinde' with 286 flower stems per sq.m., followed by 'Ballerina' and 'Blue Heaven'. The main flower stems were picked with one lateral and the stem length was the same in all shading treatments (52cm). The differences in stem length between cultivars were small. The laterals were slightly shorter after heavier shading.

Stem weights increased with decreasing shade, ranging in the main stems from 108 grams per stem. The main flower stems of 'Blue Heaven' branched considerably, regardless of the experimental treatments. A secondary treatment of 3 weeks at 14 C, applied to the corms, resulted in a 20% reduction in flower stems and a 9% reduction in stem weights. The conclusion is that better light usage, without making concessions to the soil temperature during the period of leaf and flower initiation, is favorable for both yields and quality. Corms which had been given a secondary treatment before planting flowered 2½ weeks earlier, but at the expense of yield and quality.

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