

Thomas Sheehan - Reporter

The first topic for discussion was that of slug and snail control. Russ Mott, of Cornell, has found calcium arsenate - 3.2 ounces, metaldehyde - 2.0 ounces, and bran flakes - 3.6 pounds a successful bait to control slugs and snails. The ingredients are mixed and then placed on the benches in little mounds of about one tablespoon each at about a two-foot spacing. The benches should be cleaned after seven days as by this time the mixture becomes moldy and messy. One grower suggested placing the bait on small pieces of glass to keep the mess off the benches. Mr. Vessy said he also mixes either sugar or molasses with above materials and then lets the mixture dry for a day before using. He has found that the added materials do a better job. Another grower found that baiting the area around the greenhouses gave excellent control. Bill Lana said that they use arbor-tox #7, a dust composed of DDT and metaldehyde used at the rate of 50 pounds per 75,000 square feet every two weeks. Copper lime dust was also suggested. This material is effective as long as it doesn't get too wet.

Tom Sheehan believes dry sepal may be caused by several factors, but as yet there is by no means any complete answer.

Doctor Charles Fischer found that if orchids were stored at low temperatures, e.g. 4 days at 36°, the flowers developed a brown column and were no longer salable. Further studies are being conducted on this problem to see if it is possible to store orchids for a longer period of time than is now possible. He also said that the Vanda shipping problem seems to have improved since shippers have been using B.A.C. (brominated activated charcoal) in their packages. The B.A.C. absorbs the ethylene evolved by the flowers and prevents self injury to the flowers.

Gavino Rotor found that Cattleya labiata, C. mossiae, C. percivaliana, and C. trianae were prevented from flowering by long days at a temperature of 65°F. All of the above species initiated buds under short days at 65°. Cattleya labiata was found to flower at 55°F regardless of daylength. C. gaskelliana and C. warszewiczii (C. gigas) initiated and developed buds under low temperature and short days. The reactions of these Cattleya orchids will be discussed in a separate article to be published soon. Reactions to daylength and temperature of other orchids as Dendrobium nobile, D. phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum insigne, and Phalaenopsis species were also discussed. The results of experiments regarding these plants will be published in a series of articles.