

Recent and Good Planting Density for Carnations

Bunt, A. C. 1969 (1970). *An Attempt to Define the Economic Optimal Planting Density for Carnations*. Rep. Glasshouse Crops Research Inst., pp. 160-65.

15, 20, 30, 40, 60, 80, and 120 sq.in. per plant and replicated twice. Gross cash returns for each treatment were computed from weekly market prices by grades.

Rooted cuttings of White Sim carnation were planted May 17 and July 12, 1966, and grown for two calendar years. These cuttings were planted at 7 densities of

Cost of cuttings was known but costs of disbudding, cutting, and handling the flowers could not be accounted for.

In the first six months from planting there was a progressive increase in cash return with closer spacing. During the second year, when plants were much larger, both the gross cash returns and the yields were depressed at the higher densities.

With both planting dates, the maximum difference between gross cash return and the cost of cuttings

occurred at 30 sq. in. (5x6). If the costs of handling each flower were accounted for, this difference might favor the 40 sq. in. spacing. These results are for the South England coastal area.

Dr. Joe Hanan is updating our spacing knowledge for Colorado this year with yield and grade comparisons for planting densities of 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 plants per square foot of bed area.