

Recommended Temperatures for Carnations in Colorado

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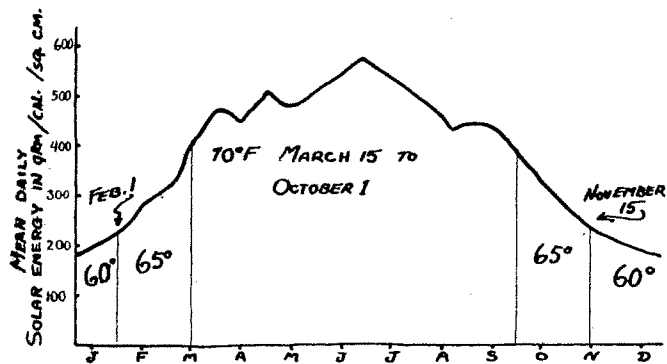
Although extensive results on our carnation day temperature research were published in CFGA Bul. 106, no specific recommendations were given. This is always difficult to do in light of the variable conditions under which greenhouse growers operate. We do feel that we can make temperature recommendations for Colorado growers since the light which they receive is similar.

No attempt should be made to influence yield with temperature. Temporary

effects on yield over a short period of time can be accomplished, but always at the expense of quality. Light and other factors affect yearly yield; not temperature.

Temperature has one of the greatest influences on the many facets of carnation quality (Bul.106). Again, however, light plays such an important role that temperature recommendations must take into consideration the amount of light available to the plants. The chart shows tempera-

tures which we know will hold carnation quality on young plants. Older plants in their second and third years should have five degree cooler temperatures.



The temperature schedule follows our average yearly solar energy curve. When light is high from March 15 to October 1, day temperatures should be kept down to 70°F when possible. Any temperature above 75°F is injurious to Sim carnation varieties. The cut-off point of cooling fans can be set at 70° without injury. If condensation is a problem, one or two fans can be left on below this point to aid air circulation.

From October 1 to November 15 the temperature should be dropped to 65°F. When light is lowest from November 15 to February 1, the day temperature should be set at 60°F. With increasing light during the February 1 to March 15 period, temperature can be raised to 65°.

We have no evidence as yet that warmer temperatures are beneficial on sunny days. If this is tried, the temperature rise should not exceed five degrees or serious losses may result from slabsided or bullheaded flowers.

For night temperature during the periods of the year when they can be controlled, 54°F from March 15 to October 1 and 50 or 52 the rest of the year is very nearly right. The 50° temperature would be best for the darkest greenhouses.

Your editor,

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