

Second Crop Pompons

by

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Discussion has often arisen as to the possibility of producing a second crop of pompons from the same plants used for the previous crop. This experiment was conducted to see if this were possible as well as to determine the quality and timing.

An Easter crop on the varieties Pinocchio, Masterpiece, Shasta, Gold Coast, Arcadia, Soprano, Little America, Seagull, and Golden Mensa was cut off by April 8, 1950. The plants were then given three hours of additional light per night until May 6, for the "76-day" and May 16, for the "66-day" varieties. As far as was possible, the plants were pruned to three stems. Black cloth was then applied until the plants flowered. Flowers were cut from early July to early August. The plants for this work were generously supplied by Yoder Bros. of Barberton, Ohio.

Results

The variety, Masterpiece, was too faded to be salable. Some plants of Arcadia and Shasta failed to produce vegetative shoots and were very uneven with low production. The average stem length, weight per stem and time to flower for this crop are presented in Table 1. The same data for these plants is presented for the first crop in Table 2.

Table 1: Second Crop Pompons in July-August

Variety*	Ave. Stem Length	Ave. wt. per stem in grams	Days to make crop	Blooming Period
Pinocchio	74.9	63.5	121	7-18 to 8-7 (20 days)
Gold Coast	35.5	55.2	108	7-11 to 7-25 (14)
Soprano	36.6	53.2	108	7-11 to 7-25 (14)
Sea Gull	33.6	55.3	114	7-7 to 8-1 (24)
Golden Mensa	34.7	62.2	114	7-7 to 8-1 (24)
Matchless	35.8	49.8	114	7-11 to 8-1 (20)
Arcadia	27.9	43.7	111	7-18 to 7-28 (10)
Little America	27.5	41.8	114	7-7 to 8-1 (24)
Shasta	41.5	52.8	121	7-25 to 8-7 (13)

*No records were kept on Masterpiece because it was unsalable.

In comparing results of these two tables, note that for the most part stems were too long on the summer crop. When the extra stem is removed, the weight per stem does not differ materially from that of the spring crop.

Table 2: First Crop from Same Plants

Variety*	Ave. Stem Length in in.	Ave. wt. per stem in grams	Days to make crop	Blooming Period
Finocchio	27.18	46.52	114	Apr.3 - Apr.8 (5)
Gold Coast	26.25	25.03	114	Apr.3 - Apr.8 (5)
Soprano	27.37	46.54	110	Mar.31- Apr.5 (6)
Seagull	23.69	41.42	107	Mar.27- Apr.5 (9)
Golden Mensa	25.29	42.17	107	Mar.27- Mar.31 (4)
Masterpiece	27.01	39.18	116	Apr.5 - Apr.8 (3)
Arcadia	29.11	41.58	107	Mar.27- Apr.1 (5)
Little America	22.19	33.59	107	Mar.27- Apr.5 (9)
Shasta	36.91	38.27	111	Apr.1 - Apr.8 (7)

*Matchless was left out of this experiment because most of the plants did not grow normally.

Conclusions

1. It is possible to produce a second crop of pompons on first crop plants.
2. With the exception of Arcadia, Shasta, and Masterpiece, the quality was good and production was comparable.
3. The main objection to this method of growing pompons is that the blooming period is spread over a much longer period of time, making timing the crop difficult.
4. This method can not be recommended in a tight cropping schedule such as year-around-production of pompons.