



IN COOPERATION WITH COLORADO A & M COLLEGE

Secretary, Ray App

Bulletin 57

4434 Lowell Blvd., Denver, Colorado

July 1954

## Second Pinching of Carnations

by W. D. Holley

The method used in second pinching is not too important. The distribution of crops resulting from three different methods of pinching was altered slightly by the pinching method but the quality or number of flowers was not significantly affected.

Rooted cuttings of White Sim were planted in a nursery bed April 13, and pinched May 8, 1953. These plants were transplanted to standard spacing on June 5. The bench was separated into 9 plots of 28 plants each. Two buffer rows of Frosted Sim were used between each pair of plots. The buffer rows adjacent to each plot were pinched by the same method used on the plot. The pinching treatments were replicated three times.

All breaks resulting from the first pinch were pinched again as they were ready. Three different methods of second pinching were compared as follows:

1. The tip of the stem with a rosette of leaves was pulled out. This method involves the use of both hands one holding the break below the tip and the other grasping the tip and making a quick pull. This method was started on the most advanced breaks 26 days after the first pinch and was continued regularly until all breaks were pinched.

2. All breaks were pinched as soon as they had elongated sufficiently even though no lateral growths were visible in the axils of the leaves at the time of pinching. This type of pinch could be started on most advanced breaks 39 days after the first pinch.

3. All breaks from the first pinch were allowed to develop until lateral growths were plainly visible. This method was begun 53 days after the first pinch.

All methods involved pinching breaks as they reached the right stage and required 5 to 6 weeks from the time the operation was started to make a complete second pinch.

Plants which were pull-pinched began production two weeks sooner than those handled by the other methods. They also were forced to branch lower. The total production and the quality from plants pinched by these methods is given in Table 1. Production figures are for a total of 84 plants or 28 square feet in each treatment and extended from September 6, 1953 to May 9, 1954.

Table 1. Production and quality of White Sim carnations resulting from three methods of second pinching

Method	Standard	Fancy	Total	Percent fancy
1) Pull pinch	466	438	957	45.8
2) Low break pinch	480	367	879	41.7
3) Delayed break pinch	448	454	950	47.8

### IN THIS ISSUE

Pinching Carnations

Lighting Poinsettias

Chrysanthemum Variety Trials

The intermediate or low break pinch reduced both quality and production, however, the differences were not quite great enough to be significant. This method of pinching, as it was used in this experiment, removed much less of each break than is often done in commercial practice. The greater the amount of tissue that is removed by pinching, the better the chances for reducing pro-

duction and quality of the flowers resulting from the pinch.

The pull pinch can be especially valuable for use on plants that are late. They may be brought into production about two weeks sooner since breaks may be pinched much sooner by this method than by any other. If plants are growing rapidly, the pull pinch may be accomplished with one hand.

\* \* \* \* \*