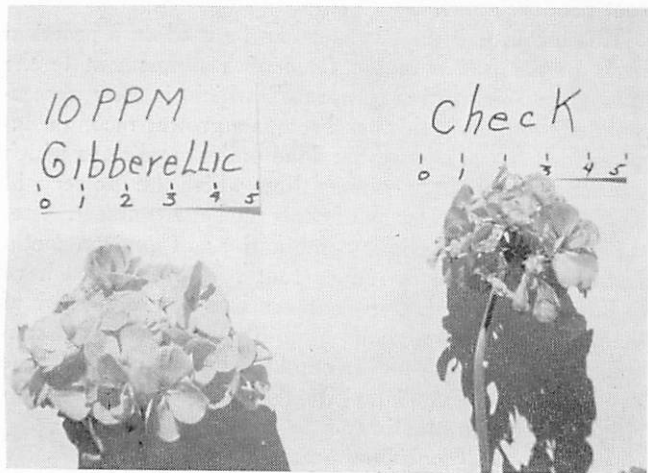


SHORT TAKES

Jim Boodley

A single application of gibberellic acid applied at the proper time will double the size of geranium blooms. A 10 parts per million concentration of the potassium salt of GA applied May 15 to florets that have color just showing will produce excellent blooms for Memorial Day sales. In addition to increasing the size of the flowers, the flower is retained longer than on untreated plants. Graff's White, Graff's Pink, Olympic Red and Madame Buckner have all been successfully treated. Do not treat Radio Red or Red Irene as these varieties develop overly elongated pedicels.



Azaleas should be lined out as soon as the danger of frost is passed. If any of the crop is to be forced for Christmas, these plants should be grown in pots all summer. A serious leaf-drop problem develops when the root ball must be severely pruned in the fall to get the large plants into pots. When these plants go in storage very little new root activity takes place. This root pruning reduces the amount of water that can be taken up which means excessive leaf fall in storage. . . . Fertilize the azaleas with ammonium sulphate at three pounds to 100 gallons of water every two weeks to provide nitrogen and to keep the pH of the media in the proper range.

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Some shade should go on the greenhouse to protect the orchids and foliage plants if this has not already been done. High light intensities will cause a bleaching of the foliage of these plants that may become serious. Don't shade too heavily; frequent light applications are more desirable.

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A good sales approach will extend the bedding plant season into July. Quality plants are always in demand and especially at this time. Use some thought and imagination to attract customers.

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Carnation cuttings direct benched May 15 can be pinched June 15 to provide flowers starting in October. Use a starter solution of 10-52-17 or 20-20-20 at 1½ pounds to 100 gallons of water. You'll be surprised at the response the plants will have to this readily available supply of nutrients.

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Have you carnation growers read through the Carnation Manual that you got at the school? The information contained is for your benefit and you can only find out what is in the manual by reading it. Then to get the benefits you must apply the information obtained. If you don't have a manual you can obtain one through Dr. Robert Langhans, Department of Floriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. The cost is \$1.25 a copy.