

Snaps as a Summer Catch Crop

Summer snapdragons are fast and of a very usable quality when grown with the aid of air conditioning. Careful selection of varieties for summer flowering is probably just as important with air conditioned snaps as it is with those not cooled.

Five winter flowering varieties and Rockwood's Summer Pink were seeded May 19, 1956, and benched at a spacing of 4 x 5 inches on June 13. The greenhouse was cooled with conventional fans and evaporative pads. Flowers were harvested from July 27 to August 17 and graded according to the S.A.F. standard grades for snapdragons. The number of flowers in each grade by variety and the cutting periods are shown in the table.

Variety	Grades					Cutting period
	2nd	1st	Extra	Fancy	Total	
Hercules	1	17	32		50	July 27-Aug. 7
Junglewood White	3	23	27		53	July 27-Aug. 7
Navaho		11	57		68	July 27-Aug. 7
Wintergreen	4	29	51		84	July 27-30
Spartan Red	3	21	33		57	July 27-Aug. 7
Rockwood's Summer Pink			31	49	80	Aug. 9-Aug. 17

Although Rockwood's Summer Pink required ten days longer to cut off, 60% of its flowers graded fancy. The extras from all varieties were excellent merchandise and the firsts were of good usable quality.

The cost of this crop would vary between 50 and 70 cents per dozen, depending upon the individual greenhouse operator. Late July and early August is often a good marketing period in most sections. By selecting the varieties grown, air conditioned snaps can be a profitable summer crop.

Varieties

Most of the taller varieties which are flowered in winter are satisfactory for summer flowering when cooled. However, they flower in about 75 days from seeding and do not grow as tall. The latest of the winter flowering varieties are usually good for summer and fall flowering. June Bride, a new white summer hybrid, is very good for summer flowering with cooling.

In addition to June Bride, the Rockwood summer varieties should be planted for highest quality. These include Summer Yellow, Crystal White, Summer Pink, Summer Red, and Lavender Rose. Allow about 90 days from seeding to flowering. Caution: Do not grow the Summer varieties for fall flowering as they are often unsatisfactory under short-day conditions.