

# SOME LIKE IT HOT

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Temperature studies on 14 chrysanthemum varieties at Hannover Horticultural Institute in West Germany have revealed some interesting information. There were significant varietal differences in response to the temperature regimes tested, but when grown at 59F rather than 64F in all the varieties the diameter of the flowers was reduced by between 2% and 35%, the number of buds fell by 12% to 32% and the growing period was from 4 to 11 days longer.

The advantageous effect of the higher temperature was most pronounced when applied during the early and middle stages of the short day period rather than towards the end.

Response to lowered temperatures during the night period depended on variety — Lemon Spider was sensitive to a temperature drop towards the end of the night while Manuel responded at the beginning.

High day temperatures made the shoots longer but at the expense of their numbers. High night temperatures worked in the opposite way. There was a strong interaction between light levels and temperatures, higher temperatures producing their most advantageous effects only under high light intensities. Increasing the light intensity also affected crop duration at all temperature regimes used in the trial.



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