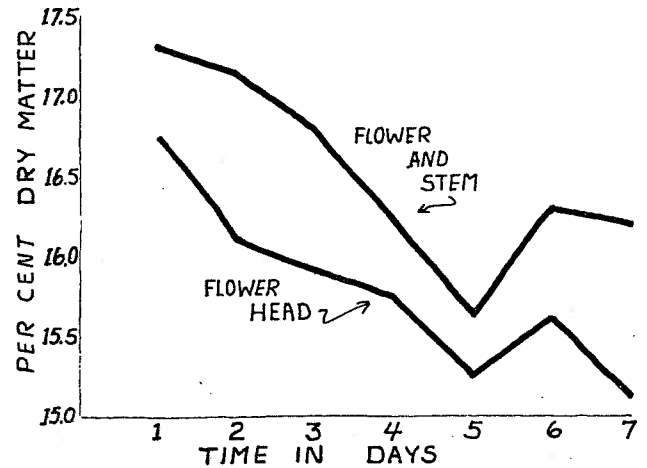


The Percentage of Dry Matter Decreases With Age of Cut Carnations

by Charles H. Korn

Forty-two freshly cut carnations were placed in warm water containing 100 ppm chlorine and set in a 33° refrigerator for one day. They were placed in a controlled 70°F room the following day and each day thereafter 6 flowers at random were removed and the per cent dry matter determined. Measurements were made for the complete flower and stem, and for the flower head only. The graph shows a steady loss in apparent respirable foods. The dry matter in the cut flowers decreased from 17.3 to 16.2% in the 7-day period, August 3 to August 10. Dry matter in flower heads decreased from 16.7 to 15.1% in this period. The increase in % dry matter the 6th day is not understood, however, there was a steady increase in fresh weight of the flowers and flower heads to the 7th day. The use of cut flower foods changes this trend, and may reverse it.



Decrease in percentage dry matter during a 7-day cut flower keeping period.

Your editor, W. D. Holley

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