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Time of Year and Height of Cut Influences Comeback in Roses

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The number of days from cut to bloom in roses varies with the time of year the cut is made and the height at which the cut is made. Work at Ithaca from 1948 to 1950 with Peters Briarcliff plants involved complete growth records of 10,000 individual shoots.

The period of growth of the flowering shoot was classified as number of days from a cut until the bud broke and the number of days from the time the bud broke until the flower was cut. The period from cut to break was more erratic than the period from break to bloom. After the bud started a relatively uniform number of days were required for it to mature a flower regardless of the time of year (table, page 2). Of the entire lot of buds recorded 68 of each 100 broke within 10 days. Of 100 buds which broke on the same day, 92 flowered within 10 days. Following 100 buds from flowers cut on the same date, 68 flowered within 10 days. The variability was greatest when the bud was on a stem from which a flower was cut in December or January.

High Cuts Break Quickly

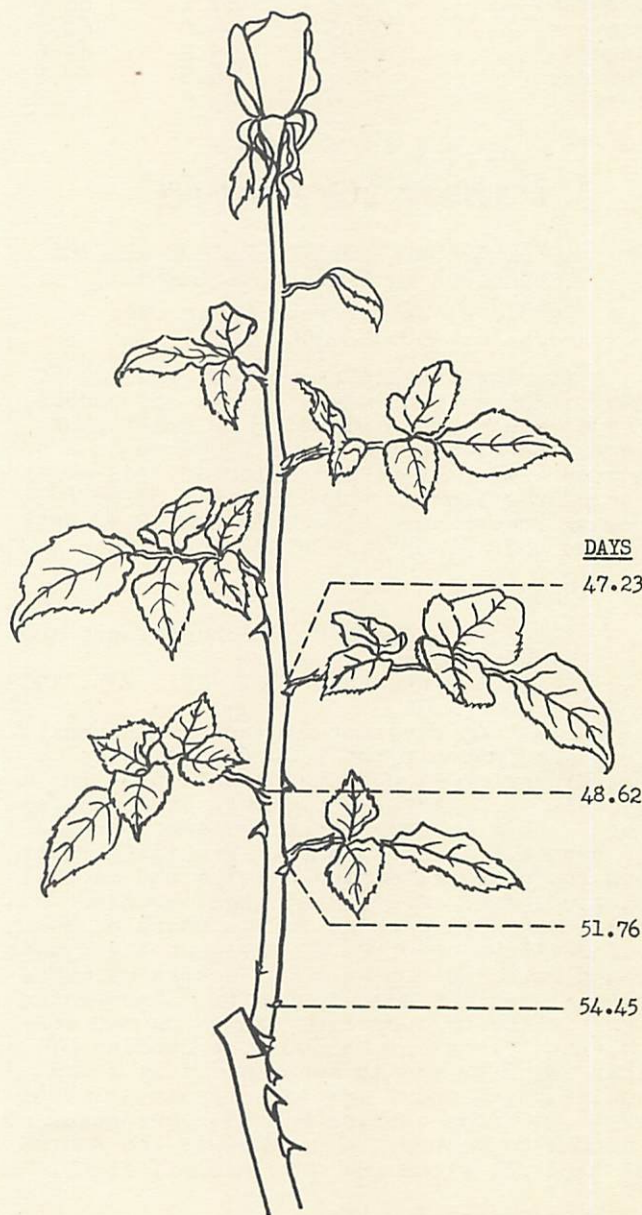
The buds nearer the tip of the flowering shoot break in less time than buds lower down the shoot. In fact the tip buds often break before the terminal flower is cut and bloom only a short time after the terminal bud.

Data from this experiment show that among the buds further down the stem this same observation holds true. The diagram shows the average time from cut to cut was considerably less when the first cut was made above a 2 five leaflet leaf rather than just above the first 3 leaflet leaf.

These data show that a quicker comeback results from higher cuts on the stem and the interval from cut to break is more variable than that from break to bloom.

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Average number days required for a flower to mature from the bud indicated when the flower is cut immediately above that bud



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* This work was done while Dr. Kohl was in residence at Cornell. He is now extension specialist in Floriculture at New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

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MONTH OF CUTTING AND PERCENTAGE
OF BUDS DEVELOPING WITHIN 10 DAYS

<u>MONTH OF FIRST CUT</u>	<u>Cut to break %</u>	<u>Break to Cut %</u>	<u>Cut to Cut %</u>
September	74.3	90.5	69.7
October	61.5	90.1	65.3
November	71.3	87.1	65.9
December	58.5	94.0	60.2
January	64.7	95.2	64.6
February	70.2	96.8	67.8
March	74.0	93.5	81.8