

TIMING AND PINCHING STUDIES ON LATE CHRYSANTHEMUMS

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Time of benching seems to be more important than time of pinching on late varieties of pompons.

Eight varieties were benched July 16-18, grown in a fertile soil and allowed to bloom under normal day length conditions. Each variety was divided into three lots which were pinched July 28, August 4, and August 11, respectively. The night temperature throughout the crop was 60° F.

Plants were grown to three stems though occasionally only two developed. This affected the average weight but had no appreciable influence on average length.

Table I shows the number of stems cut, the average weight in grams and the average length for each pinch date. Grams were used as a convenient scale for weighing. These weights can be converted to ounces by dividing by 28.

TABLE 1 - THE INFLUENCE OF PINCHING DATE ON THE PERFORMANCE OF LATE CHRYSANTHEMUM VARIETIES

Variety	Pinch Date	Cutting Period	Number Stems	Average Weight Grams	Average Length Inches
Yellow Cameo	7/28	Nov. 23-29	45	65.1	40.2
	8/4		42	73.8	40.5
	8/11		60	62.6	38.4
December Gold	7/28	Nov. 23-	50	70.4	35.8
	8/4	Dec. 12	46	72.6	34.9
	8/11		51	84.5	34.6
Omega	7/28	Nov. 22-29	40	76.8	28.0
	8/4		61	69.1	29.7
	8/11		40	71.4	30.6
Riviera	7/28	Dec. 5-16	40	77.0	37.5
	8/4		39	77.0	37.7
	8/11		46	73.4	36.6
Vibrant	7/28	Dec. 9-16	43	66.4	34.9
	8/4		40	73.8	31.5
	8/11		60	68.5	32.9
Revelation	7/28	Dec. 20-23	35	97.6	39.5
	8/4		33	90.9	43.2
	8/11		69	85.1	41.4
Yellow Snow	7/28	Dec. 20-23	36	95.5	38.3
	8/4		41	77.6	37.4
	8/11		56	74.5	35.8
Enchantress	7/28	Nov. 23-	40	86.6	43.6
	8/4	Dec. 6	35	69.3	44.5
	8/11		55	64.0	41.6

Conclusions and Observations

In general the quality of the crop was high. Vibrant shows a tendency to fade in strong light.

Although the average petiole lengths were computed, there were no significant

differences with regards the three different pinch dates.

The time of benching exerted more influence on stem length than time of pinching.

For a tight cropping schedule at 60° F. night temperatures, the benching and pinching dates suggested by these results are in Table 2.

TABLE 2. BENCHING AND PINCHING DATES TO OBTAIN 30-INCH STEMS

Variety	Benching Date	Pinch Date	Blooming Date
Omega	July 26	August 10	Nov. 22-29
December Gold	August 1	August 15	Nov. 23-Dec. 12
Vibrant	August 1	August 15	Dec. 9-16
Yellow Cameo	August 5	August 20	Nov. 23-29
Enchantress	August 5	August 20	Nov. 23-Dec. 6
Riviera	August 5	August 20	Dec. 6-15
Yellow Snow	August 5	August 20	Dec. 20-23
Revelation	August 5	August 20	Dec. 20-23