

Also, a large array of 4-inch pot plants are being tested and developed.

In addition, there are many CSU projects to test rock wool as a potential media. It looks very good. Rock wool can help resolve several disease problems and also make roller benches more feasible for cut flowers.

Finally, the CSU researchers are deeply involved with computerized environment controls for greenhouses.

I was the greatest benefactor in my brief visit to CSU. I just wish we had this variety and quantity of research going on in San Diego County! ##

STABY

"CLOUD-9" LOOKS GOOD ON ROSES

Four types of greenhouse coverings were compared at Colorado State University during 1984-1985 in computer-controlled rose greenhouses. The coverings were:

- House 1 4 mil double layer Tedlar Nexglaze
- House 2 single layer 5 oz. Tedlar coated LASCO (FRP) panels
- House 3 double layer Monsanto "Cloud-9", air-inflated
- House 4 double layer Tedlar (PVF), 4 mil outside, 2 mil inside, air-inflated.

Flower yield under "Cloud-9" was 12 percent better than under the FRP panels or the double Tedlar air-inflated cover. "Cloud-9" yield was 15 percent greater than the Tedlar panel cover. The total flower stems produced in the "Cloud-9" covered house were 6, 9, and 14 percent longer than the lengths harvested from Houses 4, 2, and 1 respectively.

The cost of heating the four houses for 211 days at Fort Collins from January to early June 1985 was 78¢/sq.ft. for House 1, 118¢/sq.ft. for House 2, 80¢/sq.ft. for House 3, and 73¢/sq.ft. for House 4. ###

HERBICIDES ON ANNUAL STATICE

From an article "Response of Statice to Selected Herbicides" in the December 1985 issue of HortScience, several herbicides were tested on Limonium sinuata or Annual Statice in Florida.

The only two materials that did not affect plant vigor or fresh weigh plant growth were Dacthal and Ronstar. As far as I know, there is no California registration for these herbicides to be used on Annual Statice. ####

VANCOUVER FLOWER AUCTION EXPANDS

The Vancouver, B.C., Canada Flower Auction just celebrated the completion of a new 100,000 sq.ft. warehouse and office complex.

Founded in 1963, the United Flower Growers Cooperative Association opened in a 15,000 sq.ft. facility in Vancouver's produce district. In 1978, the auction was moved to a new 45,000 sq.ft. building at Burnaby.

Now in 1986 there are two electronic auction clocks and other computerized facilities. The 23-year auction cooperative now has 71 member-growers and does \$15 million (Canadian) in sales, which represents 40 percent of the area's \$38 million floral industry. #####

WAXFLOWER SHATTERING

Several growers are again experiencing flower drop after harvesting of Geraldton waxflower. We think that this recent flurry is largely due to Botrytis Rot

infection on the tiny flower stems. With prolonged cool temperatures and intermittent rains (much of the past month), Botrytis is very difficult to stop. Frequent spraying in the field with materials such as Botran, Ornalin or Chipco 26019 is the best control during cold, wet weather. A post harvest dip of bunches in an Ornalin solution is also suggested.

At this point, no grower has reported to me whether positive results are possible by also dipping flowers in a solution of 30 to 40 ppm of NAA (Naphthaleneacetic acid). The Israelis have reported that this treatment helps prevent flower drop. And finally, be certain to harvest only top quality "new flowers" that are not fading in color and blasted wide open. Growers can help themselves most by keeping the junky quality out of the marketplace. Don't expect your shipper to sell your junky quality merchandise! #####

INTRODUCING RICHARD EVANS

We welcome Dr. Richard Evans who officially started as Extension Floriculture Specialist, University of California, in January 1986. Richard replaces Ray Hasek, who retired in 1985. Richard is a well-qualified individual with degrees from UC-Berkeley, Cornell University, and he has just completed his PhD at UC-Davis under the direction of Dr. Michael Reid. Richard has particular expertise in the area of postharvest technology. You will have an opportunity to meet Richard Evans at the Postharvest Workshop (for flowers and greens) on April 9 (1:30-4:30 p.m.) at the San Diego County Flower and Plant Auction. #####

Seward T. Besemer
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