

excessive moisture are principal contributing factors. In such instances the use of a disinfectant may become necessary. With that thought in mind a number of disinfectants were tested during the period 1930 to 1932 (?)¹ to determine their effect on the bulbs. Materials used for liquid treatments included bichloride of mercury, Semesan, Ceresan, DuBay 635, Calogreen, formaldehyde (standard 40 percent solution), and lime-sulfur; dusts included Ceresan and lime, DuBay 681 and lime, and sulfur-arsenate of lead. It was found that Easter lily bulbs suffered little or no injury when immersed in bichloride of mercury 1:1,000 (by weight), Semesan 1:400 (by weight) or formaldehyde 1:240 (by volume) for periods up to one hour at least, and that dipping the bulbs momentarily in lime-sulfur at concentrations up to 1:40 (by volume) is likewise non-injurious. Other materials proved injurious at the strengths employed, the amount of injury ranging from slight to severe.

TIME OF FLOWERING A MAJOR DIFFICULTY

The third major difficulty encountered in the commercial production of Easter lilies in Florida has been their failure to produce flowers at the proper time. Since time of flowering is largely determined by favorable growing temperatures, a condition not subject to control, this has been a discouraging phase of the lily problem.

Obviously, Easter lily culture can never become a profitable enterprise until it is possible to market the flowers to advantage. This means that a large part of the flower crop must be sold at Easter or before that time. Prices received for flowers after Easter allow little profit to growers, and in most instances, do little more than defray shipping costs.

The growing season for Easter lilies in Florida extends approximately from September until June, with the bulk of the flower crop coming during late April and early May. Hence, heavy flower production takes place after Easter, as a rule. The question therefore exists as to whether the bulbs can be handled during the summer rest period or the crop managed during the growing season so as to hasten flowering, and if possible, concentrate flower production at Easter time.

The generous use of water and fertilizer is the simplest means of forcing the crop to early maturity and flowering. During

¹Italic figures in parentheses refer to "Literature Cited" in the back of this bulletin.