

Interrupted Naps Make Poinsettias Bloom At Yule

Stillwater, Okla. (Science Service) The most effective way to make poinsettias bloom just before Christmas is to shine lights on the plants from midnight to 1 a.m. each night from Sept. 22 to Oct. 10. Under this treatment the plants are at the peak of blooming on Dec. 20, rather than Dec. 10 - the natural peak point.

These conclusions are the result of a two-year study of plant reaction to different periods of light exposure. Drs. Robert C. Miller and C. C. Kiplinger of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, reported in a study prepared for delivery here this morning at the American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting.

Why does giving a plant more light make it bloom later? Dr. Miller explained it this way: Poinsettias start forming flowers when the days get shorter and are called short-day plants. But really they are long-night plants. Like people, they need their rest. If their night-long "sleep" is interrupted, they do not flower as soon as they would under normal conditions. Under constant light these plants will not bloom at all.

Researchers and greenhouse owners have tried turning on lights at the beginning and end of the daylight hours, thus essentially lengthening the number of hours of exposure to light. Some used four additional hours of light, either in two doses or all in one.

However, no method has proved so effective as "waking up" the plant exactly in the middle of the night. Dr. Miller determined. During the daytime, of course, the plant gets normal sunshine.

The middle of the night method works just as well even if the light is not continuous. A technique known as "flashlighting" is just as effective, not only for poinsettias but for chrysanthemums as well. This consists of dividing each minute of the hour-long period into two seconds of light and 58 seconds of darkness. For poinsettias growers who have large numbers of plants, flashlighting is particularly valuable for cutting down on electricity bills and is one way of staggering loads on power lines.

Either technique works for poinsettias of any age kept at 62 degrees Fahrenheit. The best type of light found so far is regular incandescent light of about 20 foot-candle intensity. Because the long-red visible radiation is the most effective agent, fluorescent lights - mostly in the blue range - are not suitable, Dr. Miller said. However, a fluorescent lamp concentrated in the red range is being developed and may prove to be better than ordinary electric bulbs.

Just why a plant reacts this way to interrupted nights is not known. The physiology has not been worked out. The factor which controls flowering is believed to be a growth regulator. Root growth inhibits flower budding and vice versa.

It also has been shown that the leaves of the poinsettia produce a flower inhibitor. A branch from a light-treated plant grafted to an untreated host will flower only if the leaves of the host plant are removed. Dr. Miller found that this single graft can also influence the host to flower earlier than usual.

Wall Street Chatter

New York - (UPI) - The constant rotation of interest that has been a hallmark of the market for the past few weeks is a factor of strength and not of weakness, according to Kenneth Ward of Hayden, Stone and Co.

Profits derived from stocks which have had sharp run-ups, such as aircrafts, are almost immediately reinvested in other relatively unexploited issues, he says.

Goodbody and Co. has a report on the glass fiber industry and currently favors Owens-Corning, Gustin-Bacon and Ferro for long term investment accounts.

Stock Trend Service tells its clients to avoid Western Union and take on long term investment positions in Colgate-Palmolive.

Business Reports, Inc. recommends Florida Public Utilities for the young investor seeking long term growth; First Boston Corp. for the middle-aged seeking high income security; and Arkansas Power and Light for the retired or soon-to-be-retired.

Writer Reviews Common Problem in Photography - Subject Out of Focus

By A. W. McCOLLOUGH
United Press International
New York - Let's turn our backs for a while on such questions as whether photography is art and how to express an individual point of view in photos and consider the common problem of blurry pictures.

Most of the snapshot takers I know find that at least one

picture on each roll is no good because the image is unsharp. And most of these camera users chalk it up to poor focusing. Eight times out of 10 they are mistaken: the true cause was camera movement.

Immediately I hear the experts and the camera makers chorusing: "Aha; the photographers broke a cardinal rule—they jabbed at the shutter re-

lease instead of squeezing it gently, and so they moved the camera."

Manufacturer's Fault
Probably true. And whose fault is it? Basically, not the photographer's, but the camera manufacturer's.

Most camera shutter releases simply are not properly designed to prevent camera movement. This is particular-

ly true on the less expensive models, the kind that most of the 52 million American amateur photographers use.

Take a look at your own camera. The chances are that the shutter release button, or lever, must be pushed either sideways or downward. The result is that when you snap the picture you almost inevitably push the camera side-

ways or downward, too, and thereby blur the picture, perhaps so slightly as to be almost unnoticeable, perhaps so much that the image is unrecognizable.

Of course, the careful picture taker tries to be gentle in releasing the shutter, and most times, if he is really careful, he succeeds.

But why do the camera makers make it so tough for us? Why don't they get busy and design better release buttons and levers that are jab-proof?

Here's one idea that seems to make sense, and I leave it to the camera and shutter builders to say why not, if it doesn't: design the release so

that it moves BACKWARD in relation to the camera. Then if the camera is being held against the face while the user's eye is looking through the viewfinder, as most modern cameras are held, the finger pushing the shutter release can't jar the camera much, because the camera, being already braced against the face, can't move backward.

South Bend, Ind.—Most of the stock was drenched when a large water pipe burst in a downtown store. The store specializes in raincoats.

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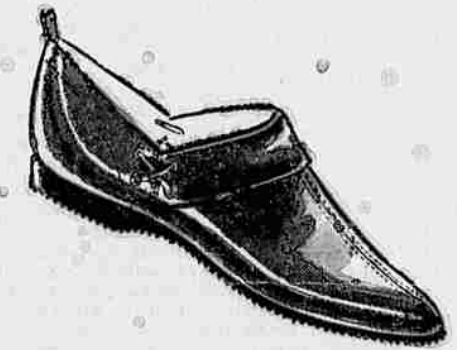
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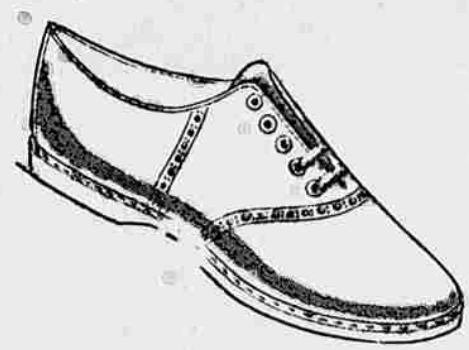
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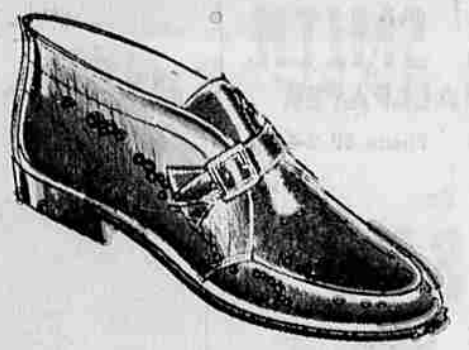


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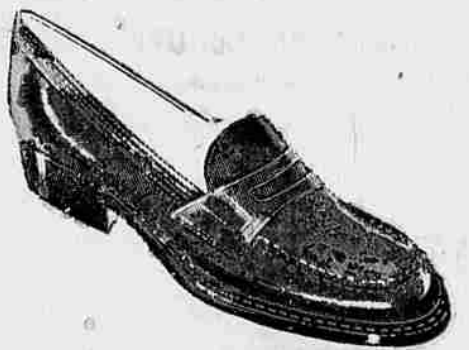
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