

Two Vo-Tech Chapters Give Lancaster Co. FFA New Look

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into growing flowers on a commercial scale

"Basically, with just a few changes, carnations would be the same as several other crops," Mitchell explained. With just a few adjustments the students presumably would be able to grow a wide variety of flower crops.

Mount Joy also is working with chrysanthemums for the Easter market. Growing plants for a particular market period involves controlling heat, light, and fertilization, the factors of production, in the right propor-



Dick Wood, Brownstown floriculture teacher, displays a marigold.

tions to make the flowers bloom at the right time, Easter in this case.

The idea is that once the students learn the fundamentals and have the experience with chrysanthemums they can apply their knowledge to other types of flower crops.

Besides greenhouse management and floral design, the course involves basic plant science or the fundamentals of how plants grow, what to do to get the best growth, and how chemicals act on the plants.

Those students particularly interested in design are encouraged to spend more of their time in this area.

Mitchell noted that the school primarily gives students a broad understanding of the field and they'll "become specialists" after they actually begin work.

A coop program will be started next year in which the student works for an employer. The teacher will serve as the go-between to insure that the work is meaningful and educational.

Sees Good Future

Dan Helwig, Mount Joy floriculture teacher, sees a good future for greenhouse plants. With giant residential areas springing up with unbroken space for miles and miles property owners will "have to do something to soften these monstrosities. That's when they start buying landscaping."

He noted that there is a trend for big office buildings to spend relatively large sums for foliage plants. New businesses are springing up to supply fresh plants for offices, replacing them when they lose color; this is done on a contract basis.



Checking the carnations at Mount Joy are: left to right, Ann Wiggins, Gary Shelly, Doris Gingrich, Luann Reisinger, Linda Gamber and Joe Neustadter.



LuAnn Reisinger, Columbia High School, puts together a small design of zinnias, fern and ivy at the Mount Joy school.

Mitchell noted that in many FFA Chapter there is development of FFA programs and variety of contests and programs available comparable to the conventional FFA program. He foresees contests placing emphasis on the operation of a greenhouse production program. Next year they plan to enter the Philadelphia Flower Show. Mitchell thinks it will be

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