

AGRICULTURE - - Greenhousing

Fred Jensen
769 No. 3 Road, Richmond

Interviewed: February 7, 1973.

. . . born 1904 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Came to Canada in 1927.
. . . first to farm southern Saskatchewan for six months . . . then
on farm in B.C. for four months . . . left this to return to commercial flower growing . . . 1928 job with Brown Bros. Nursery, Haney,
five acres under glass and 30 men working, producing cut flowers
for wholesale market . . . there six years . . . depression came . . .
went to Caribou gold mining three years both placer and hard rock
mining.

1942 . . . return to this area, bought 1 block of land in 600 block
Blundell, Richmond . . . started growing seed crops mainly cauliflower
contract for selling seed at \$7. a pound . . . put up first greenhouse,
started commercial flower growing . . . erected greenhouses
one at a time . . . also worked as a carpenter first two years
(1942-43) . . . operated Blundell Nursery for 26 years, sold 1969. . .
peak last 5 years . . . bought 769 No. 3 Road with greenhouse 3,000
sq. ft. with boiler plant and home and retired there.

. . . big shortage of flowers during W.W.2 but not in production
then . . . building materials hard to get . . . had to straighten out
old nails . . . couldn't buy new cars, all delapidated.

. . . father, grandfather, brother and sister also horticulturists

At original nursery most popular were carnations, and cut and
pot chrysanthemums . . . had 3 - 7 people working for them summer, in
winter two people . . . shipped to 3 flower wholesale markets
Vancouver on consignment basis . . . daily or 3 times weekly.

Carnation market unlimited then . . . 1945 Jensen only grower bringing them to Vancouver . . . all Sim variety originated New York, still today . . . all double . . . all colors . . . red popular for special days, also white, pink, some yellow . . . dyeing carnations started later in Denver (centre carnation).

Also grew smaller crops of stocks and pansies . . . any pansy will bloom in winter if seed in fall.

Azalea (house plant) can grow outdoors if in partial shade from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., protected against summer sun, good drainage "no wet feet" . . . grow wild in bog in straight peat moss.

Chrysanthemum - is a "short day" plant - great change last 15 years . . . does not come into flower bud until day and night are certain length . . . can bring chrysanthemum in any time by;

- 1) shading with black cloth, and
- 2) give them light, ~~pro~~longing day

Now brought in market all year around . . . lasts long time . . . greater demand for chrysanthemums in pots, cut.

Rose growing - never for himself . . . messy greenhouse, use sulphur to control fungus, has fumes.

First person to grow anemone - full greenhouse . . . experiment the thing . . . earlier only grown outdoors in cold frames. . . . in all pastel shades . . . sell as cut flowers, one dozen to a bunch . . . not as bedding plants, people have to get used to . . . corms look like dried up liver . . . in bloom 3 months, March to July.

To start greenhouse: Jensen uses soil . . . both as a buffer, and to get tracer elements.

Last 15 years . . . most of bedding plants, pot mums, poinsettias now grown in inert materials, rock wool, peat and sand, sawdust, . . then fed minor elements and main elements.

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Uses 1/3 soil plus peat and sand, etc. Sterilize soil with metal bromide (gas in can) down 3 feet . . . kills weed seeds, fungus, not insects . . . uses DOW CR2. Best is steam.

Dellis Cleland