The Possibility of Timing *Geranium* Taxa as Flowering Potplant for Winter

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**ABSTRACT**

For the supplementation of ornamental potplant supply a new method is the growing of such products that originally belong to other areas of floriculture. Another way is the timing of flowering. In order to get more profit energy-saving cultures have to be searched and grown. Our aim was to find such plant species, which is suitable for early flowering potplant production and needs low temperature and short growing period. The experiments with *Geranium* taxa were carried out in the winter of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 in the Buda Arboretum of Corvinus University, Budapest. We compared the effect of the beginning of forcing, the temperature of the glasshouse (temperated 2-5 °C or heated 15 °C) and the effect of assimilating light comparing to natural light. Results show that the development of *Geranium macrorrhizum* was able to be accelerated in greenhouse with higher temperature. During the experiments in 2008, the plants which were forced from the beginning of January and obtained assimilating light, started to flower before 14th February (Valentine Day). In 2009 the plants which were put into the greenhouse in January and obtained assimilating light started to flower before 8th March (day of women). The plants started the timing later developed more quickly and flowered earlier. Consequently the species may need some jarovization. The plants grown in natural light grew almost such quick like those, which obtained assimilating light. Higher temperature resulted elongation in some cases, in the next step we’ll try to use growth retardants. Treatments did not have effect on the number color and size of flowers. Based on our results we can concluse that *Geranium macrorrhizum* really can be grown under energy-saving conditions, as it doesn’t need adding light obligatory, and even doesn’t need high temperature to its development. Therefore, the production needs low lighting and heating expenses. We did not obtain any result with *Geranium ‘Johnson’s Blue’,* more examinations are needed.