

## LONGER LIFE FOR CUT FLOWERS

Scientists at the Canada Agriculture Plant Research Institute in Ottawa recently developed a formula that will improve the water intake of cut roses, thus extending their life, as well as retaining the colour of red roses, according to Dr. A.P. Chan, director of the Institute. A patent has been applied for.

With the new formula, when 12 rose buds are put into a vase, it is almost guaranteed that 12 flowers will develop, Dr. Chan says. Also, the petals will be more turgid.



The problem of extending the life of cut flowers was given priority at the Plant Research Institute three years ago. Most of the work has been with roses, and it is on roses that the new floral preservative formula is most effective; snapdragons, carnations and other cut blooms were also used in the research, but commercial preservatives exist that are equally effective on these flowers.

## GERMAN ARMY MAY TRAIN IN CANADA

An eight-man team from Germany visited Canada last month to study the possibility of German army personnel using training facilities and areas in Canada.

The Defence White Paper, released in August, stated that by providing training facilities, Canada could make an additional contribution to the effectiveness of NATO and that discussions were held with Germany on the possibility of reaching an agreement similar to the agreement signed recently with Britain for British forces training in Canada.

British personnel have been training at Canadian bases since the end of the Second World War; large numbers of German troops have trained in

Britain and the United States for the past several years.

Canadian soldiers, assigned to NATO land and air elements, have been in Germany for the past 20 years.

Denmark and the Netherlands, who are also members of NATO, now use Canadian facilities. Both have small numbers undergoing aircrew training. In addition, Italy recently completed a training program for air crews at bases in Western Canada.

Numbers of troops, periods of training, and other terms of any prospective agreement with Germany will not be resolved for several months.

## TRACE-ANALYSIS RESEARCH

The National Research Council of Canada has awarded grants totalling \$399,000 over three years to Dalhousie University, Halifax, to support research in trace analysis.

The grants, to cover the cost of staff and equipment, will help the university's Chemistry Department to establish a trace-analysis research centre. Subject to the availability of funds, Dalhousie will receive \$124,000 in 1971-72, \$133,500 in 1972-73, and \$101,500 in 1973-74.

Trace analysis — the name for the procedures used to find and measure minute quantities of an element, perhaps an impurity, in a substance — is essential in both industry and science. The detection, identification and measurement of such amounts at levels of less than one part in a million is becoming increasingly necessary. In the past, detection and measurement methods have been inadequate, and frequently non-existent.

Dr. Henry D. Hicks, President of Dalhousie, said he was pleased that the application by the Chemistry Department for the negotiated grants has been approved by the National Research Council. "I concur with the views of the faculty in the department that this award will enable Dalhousie to exercise a substantial measure of leadership in trace analysis in Canada and to help us to solve critical problems in that field," said Dr. Hicks. "An important side effect will be that, through this expanded research program, Dalhousie will be supplying graduates in analytical chemistry to a rapidly growing market."

## NEED FOR RESEARCH

Dr. D.E. Ryan, chairman of the Chemistry Department, said that research in the trace-analysis field is badly needed. "While some urgent problems have been dealt with by government agencies," he added, "not nearly enough attention has been paid to the problems in Canada, and in universities there has been very little research effort."

Research programs now being undertaken at Dalhousie will be expanded considerably and development in other trace-analysis areas will be