QUESTIONS
Exercise 5-1 - Photoperiod

1) A short day plant (SDP) and long day plant (LDP) may both flower at a 14 hr photoperiod, so the absolute day length cannot be the critical factor. What is the critical difference between SD and LD plants?

2) Compare the response of the plants on the greenhouse bench that were under natural photoperiod to plants under the specific photoperiods. To what photoperiod was the natural day length equivalent? Can you explain why?

3) From these observations, briefly explain why LD plants flower, form bulbs, plantlets, or runners in the spring.

4) From these observations, briefly explain why SD plants flower, form tubers, develop color, or stop growth and go dormant in the fall.

5) Would you consider the response of plants to photoperiod analogous to a "biological calendar" that tells the plants when it is best to do certain things? Think about the implications! What are some practical applications used by horticulturists?