

## Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

[www.ecamumclub.org](http://www.ecamumclub.org)

[www.facebook.com/www.evergreenmumclub.org](https://www.facebook.com/www.evergreenmumclub.org)

### Presidents Message

Hi All,

#### Some important meeting reminders:

**Where:** April ECA meeting - Saturday, April 11th at 10 am in the Sharon Priebe Education Wing at Volunteer Park Conservatory.

**What:** ECA members only Plant sale

**Important:** 2026 ECA Membership must be current to participate in the members only plant sale

**Don't forget:** Plan to bring any plant starts you wish to donate to our plant sales.

#### Kings Mum Orders are here!

At the end of Our April meeting we will be able to leave our plant starts at the conservatory for our April 18<sup>th</sup> public plant sale. Enjoy the Easter weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Annual ECA Fundraiser – Public Plant Sale

Our public plant sale is the only club fundraiser we have throughout the year. There are lots of ways to volunteer. If you haven't already, please sign up at the April 11th meeting.

### Purchasing ECA Plant Starts

Active ECA members can purchase plant starts at \$2.00 per start.

An active ECA member has:

- Attended at least 2 meetings in the past 12 months or
- Participated in the 2025 ECA show or
- Volunteered at the 2025 or 2025 ECA show or public plant sale

ECA members who have attended less than 2 meetings in the past year can purchase plant starts at \$4 each or 3 starts for \$10

### Club Project Plant



### Upcoming Events

#### April 11

ECA meeting & club plant sale 10 am - Noon

#### April 10

ECA Public Plant Sale set-up  
9 am – 3 pm

#### April 18

ECA Public Plant Sale  
9 am – 3 pm

#### May 9

ECA meeting & club plant sale 10 am – Noon

#### June 11th

ECA meeting & club plant sale 10 am – Noon

### 2026 ECA membership dues

#### ECA Dues:

\$15 single

\$20 household

Mail checks to ECA PO BOX  
66155 Burien, WA 98166

*We may think we are nurturing our garden but of course it's our garden that is nurturing our soul.*



At our March meeting we talked about a club project plant. The two proposed cultivars were James Bryant and Purple Prince. James Bryant is pictured. If you'd like to grow either of these varieties you can pick up cuttings at our April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

## King's Mum Orders

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Associations order from King's mums has arrived. Thank you to Erika for potting the starts into 2 inch pots when they arrived. Please plan to pick up your King's Mum order's at our April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## April Cultural Notes

### 1. Clay Vs Plastic pots

Clay pots are recommended for 4 or 6 inch potting as they breathe and dry out faster during cool April days.

Plastic pots are cheaper and hold water longer - less watering will be needed. Beneficial during hot summer months

### 2. Before Potting up Wash previously used pots in a mild bleach bath

3 step bleach bath:

Bleach water ratio- 9 parts water to 1 part bleach

– soak 1 hour

Clear water rinse – soak 1 hour

Second clear water rinse – soak 1 hour

Clear bath water rinse is necessary – bleach bath water in unrinsed pots will kill your plants

### 3. Potting medium –

Club recommends soilless M&R mix (\$10 per bag -1.5 Cu Ft). PH balanced is at 6.5 and contains a good mix of fertilizers that carry the plant for 3-4 weeks. It requires no additives at this time, but some growers like to add a little Alfalfa meal and some additional pumice for increased aeration.

Alternative – custom soil/compost mixes

Custom soil/compost mixes might include compost or garden loam, a soil sweetener like slacked lime or Dolomite, steamed Bone to promote root growth. Ash and pumice or grit to loosen and aerate the soil mix

### 4. Potting on mums into 4" or 6" pots



## Feature Cultivar – Billy Bell

### Description – White Incurve

### English Classification – Intermediate Incurve (15)

A bold bloom with white incurved petals that originated in the UK. Released in 2000 by Woolman's and named after a grower from Northern Ireland. When grown as a disbud it can reach 5 inches in diameter. The plant grows to a height of about 4 feet and usually has a strong stalk

## Supplies

M&R soil less mix

Plant tags

Twist ems

Early Season Fertilizer

B9

If you need clay pots we have a wholesale clay pot resource - Washington Pottery. Contact Sue Joyner at [suej56@comcast.net](mailto:suej56@comcast.net) to get our wholesale access information.

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Pot on when a significant ring of roots forms around the bottom edge of the pot (semi root bound). Do not compact the potting mix. Tie plants to small stakes.

5. As the weather warms, move mum pots out of doors to a sunny location.
- 6.
7. Review stopping dates. Most ECA cultivars are stopped Between April 15 and May 30.
  - **Pinch date list for most ECA club cultivars is attached.**

#### 7. Insecticide Regimen

Spray for Aphids every 2 or 3 weeks, with liquid insecticide.

8. Water only as needed, **do not over water.**

#### 9. Fertilize Regimen

Fertilize weekly starting the 3rd or 4th week after potting. Use the Club Early Fertilizer. Water soluble 10-50-10 Peter's upper blossom booster is also a good substitute.

#### 10. Fungicide Regimen

If white powder appears on the plant starts treat with a fungicide

#### 11. Keep the best Cultivars

Continue the culling process to get to your final growing group. Don't always keep the first plants to reach 6" potting stage. Keep the best cultivars. Share surplus plants with other club members. Throw away damaged or diseased plants.

## Pest Management at Propagation is Critical

Early-stage plants are highly vulnerable to pests.

Pests introduced here can spread fast and become difficult to control later.

### 1. Keep stock plants clean

👉 Best practice: Don't rely on occasional sprays—focus on consistent cleanliness and monitoring.

### Inspect cuttings carefully

Incoming or freshly cut material can carry eggs, Larvae and hidden infestations

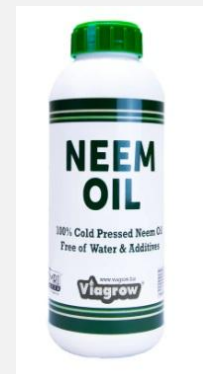


## ECA Believe it or Not

You'd think I was exaggerating if I said some of our chrysanthemums get as big as a basketball.

Guess what — not kidding! Here's a Primrose 'Jessie' next to a basketball.

## Neem Oil used at VPC



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👉 Best practice: Slow down just enough to inspect thoroughly—it saves time later.

### 3. Pre-treat cuttings (with caution)

While hot water dips and insecticidal soaps provide moderate to low pest management control, the most effective option is Neem Oil during the growing season and horticultural oil during dormancy.

Always test first for **phytotoxicity (plant damage)**

Results may vary by crop (especially woody/perennials)

Lastly Avoid applying either in temperatures above 5 F or when plant are suffering from water stress (too little or too much water).

### Sanitation practices

👉 Best practice: Keep your tools Clean using alcohol or chlorine solutions. Disinfect benches, floors and walls between growing seasons

👉 This is especially important for **disease prevention**, not just insects.

### Monitor with sticky cards

- **Yellow cards:** fungus gnats, aphids, whiteflies, etc.
- **Blue cards:** thrips
- Not effective for mites (they don't fly)

👉 These act as an **early warning system**, not a control method.

### Use environment to your advantage

- **Mist systems** help suppress spider mites
  - But once misting stops → mite populations can spike quickly
- 👉 Be ready to adjust your strategy after propagation.

### Understand treatment limitations

- **Systemics don't work early** (no roots yet)
  - **Foliar sprays may wash off** under mist systems
- Use: **Stickers/spreaders** to improve spray adhesion

### Bottom line

A strong propagation-stage pest program includes:

- Clean stock plants
- Careful inspection
- Preventative treatments



## VPC Pest Control Recipe

In a 32 oz spray bottle add the following:

2-4 oz isopropyl alcohol 70%

Warm water up to the fill line

4 squirts of dish soap

1 – 3 teaspoons Neem Oil  
(important to keep water very warm to help melt and disperse the Neem Oil)

Shake to break down and mix oil thoroughly

## With Insecticides and Fungicides – Always Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

For Chemical Application:  
Chemical-resistant gloves (nitrile), long sleeves, eye protection, and mask.

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- Good sanitation
- Early monitoring

If you get these right, **you reduce the need for heavy chemical use later** and make the entire growing cycle more manageable.

## B9 Information

The active ingredient in B9 is Daminozide. B-Nine reduces plant height in ornamental plants by reducing internode length. When applied to plant foliage B9 is absorbed into the leaf, moves within the plant to the growing points to reduce internode elongation. If plants don't have leaves then B9 won't work.

**Solutions prepared from B-Nine should not be held for more than 24 hours.**

**Apply during morning or evening hours for best leaf absorption. Use when foliage is dry, apply only on turgid, well-watered plants. Plants should not be watered for 2-3 hours after application with B-Nine.**

Do not tank mix B-Nine with any copper-containing product and do not spray B-Nine within 7 days either before or after copper-containing products, as burning of leaves may result. Always read and follow label directions when using this product.

Under some conditions and on some varieties, B-Nine may delay flowering. It is advisable to test on a small scale any new variety in order to observe the results before large scale use.

- Do not mix with any other chemical unless specifically recommended.
- Do not use on Chrysanthemum variety Fandango.

### Benefits for Chrysanthemums

- Produces stronger stalks and smaller internodes, more well branched and compact plants, reducing damage during transport
- Increases quality and duration of flowering
- Creates greener foliage
- Increases root growth, drought and pollution resistance

### Early applications

- Use when shoots of plants are maximum 2.5 – 5 cm long, around 2 weeks after pinching out (topping)
- Repeat the application at 2-3 week intervals
- To avoid flowering delay, do not use B-Nine after budding formation and do not exceed maximum dose rates



## ECA website Post

June 22, 2017 at 3:10 am

Hi I'm the person that the chrysanthemum was named after I was 2 at the time when I was taken to the royal Easter show, my nan showed me a picture that was in the magazine she had but it got lost after her death I never thought I'd get to see it so if you could tell me where I may find this flower I'd be chuffed, the picture was in black and white often wondered if it was yellow thanks you made my day Sincerely Connie Mayhew / Kropp.



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