

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

www.ecamumclub.org

www.facebook.com/www.evergreenmumclub.org

Presidents Message

With my new starts in hand, I'm feeling hopeful and energized as I look ahead to a new year of growing mums and the spectacular fall color they promise. I'm excited to put into practice what I've learned—from our ECA group discussions and from last year's growing experience—to make this my best mum-growing season yet!

Our next ECA meeting will be Saturday, May 9th at 10 a.m. in the lower greenhouse at the Volunteer Park Conservatory. At this meeting, our program will be a demonstration on how to start and train Chrysanthemum cascades and bonsai forms. Bring your questions.

Now that you've got your plant starts, the real care begins—and as you'll see in the cultural notes, there's a lot of helpful information to guide you. Attending our monthly ECA meetings is a great opportunity to ask questions, compare experiences, and learn from our experienced growers.

April Public Plant Sale

Thank you to all the ECA plant sale volunteers. Your help was greatly appreciated. Our annual plant sale is the only ECA fund raising activity that we do. This year we **sold** about **1200** plant starts and **netted** [REDACTED] from the plant sale. The remaining plant starts were donated to the Arboretum plant sale.

New Members

Welcome to our newest ECA members — Iben and James

Dransfield, Stephen **Murphy**, Chitra **Parpia**, and Janice and John **Paulson**. Participation in our monthly ECA meetings is the key to success. We're excited to share our knowledge and passion for



Upcoming Events

May 9th -

ECA meeting Lower Greenhouse at Volunteer Park Conservatory
10 am – Noon

June 13th -

ECA meeting Sharon Priebe Education wing at Volunteer Park Conservatory
10 am – Noon

July 11th -

ECA meeting Sharon Priebe Education wing at Volunteer Park Conservatory
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.

growing and showing chrysanthemums with you. Please feel free to reach out anytime for information or support.

Kings 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 pick up your Kings mum order at our May 9th ECA meeting.

May Cultural Notes

When to Pot Up Your Chrysanthemums

- **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:
 - **4" pots:** Bamboo skewers work well.
 - **6" pots:** Use 12-inch bamboo stakes.
- **Move pots outdoors** as weather warms. Choose a **sunny location**.
 - Some growers **bury clay pots to the rim** to protect plants from **frost, wind, pets, and children**.

Potting Medium (4" or 6" Pots)

1. Soilless M&R Mix

Composition:

- Canadian sphagnum peat
 - Pumice
 - Perlite
 - Vermiculite
 - Unkilne diatomaceous earth
 - Dolomite Lime Flour
 - Limestone Flour
 - Gypsum
 - Wetting agent
- Available exclusively to ECA members.
 - pH balanced at **6.5 – 7.0** and includes a balanced fertilizer blend to support growth for **3–4 weeks**.
 - No additives are required, though some growers add **alfalfa meal** and **pumice** for extra aeration.



Feature Cultivar – Len Hall

Description – Pink Incurve

English Classification – Exhibition Incurve (3)

A bold bloom with purple incurved petals that originated in the UK. Len Hall is a consistent ribbon winner at our annual fall show. It was released in England in 1970 by Len Hall. When grown as a disbud it can reach 4 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
Twist ems
Early & Mid Season Fertilizer B9
4 foot Bamboo Stakes

If you need clay pots we have a wholesale clay pot resource - Washington Pottery.

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

2. Custom Compost Mix for 4 inch pots

(Refer to the McGlashen Handbook for full instructions.)

Combine:

- **3 parts compost or garden loam**
- **½ part leaf mould**
- **½ part old manure** (well rotted)
- **2 teaspoons bone meal** (for root growth)
- **3 teaspoons slaked lime**
- **1 teaspoon wood ash**
- **1 teaspoon soot**

Custom Compost Mix for 6 inch pots

(Refer to the McGlashen Handbook for full instructions.)

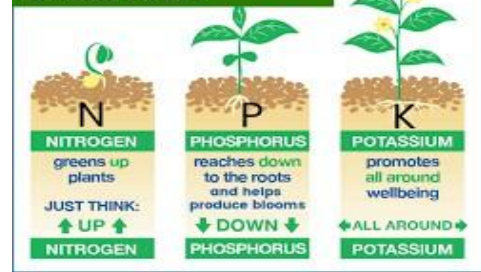
Combine:

- **3 parts compost or garden loam**
- **¼ part leaf mould**
- **¾ part old manure** (well rotted)
- **4 teaspoons bone meal** (for root growth)
- **2 teaspoons slaked lime**
- **2 teaspoons wood ash**
- **2 teaspoons soot**

Clay or Plastic Pots?

- **Always clean and disinfect** old pots before use.
 - Soak in a **bleach solution** (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) for at least **10 minutes**, then rinse thoroughly in 2 clear water baths.
- **Clay pots** are preferred for 4" or 6" potting because:
 - They **breathe and dry faster** during cool spring days.
 - Their **porosity** allows air and moisture to reach fine roots at the soil edge.
 - They **wick away excess moisture**, preventing soggy soil.
 - Place a crock piece over the drainage hole in the bottom of the pot before filling with planting medium
- If using **plastic pots, water sparingly** — chrysanthemums dislike "wet feet."
 - Overwatering can **rot roots**, especially in 4" pots.

What do the numbers on fertilizer mean?



Fertilizer Education

Fertilizers list 3 numbers showing Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium percentages by weight.

Example: **10-5-5** = 10% N, 5% P₂O₅, 5% K₂O

Nitrogen (N) promotes chlorophyll, height and lush green growth. We recommend a 20-10-20 concentration for plant growth in June and July during the plant development stage. Apply at 1 to 2 tsp per gallon of water

Phosphorous (P) promotes root growth. We recommend a 12-45-10 concentration for plant growth in March, April and May during the root development stage. Apply at ½ to 1 tsp per gallon of water

Potassium (K) promotes disease resistance, drought tolerance and photosynthesis. Once the bud shows color in August we recommend a 4-18-38 concentration. Apply at ¼ to ½ tsp per gallon of water

Visual Cues for fertilizer adjustments:

- Hard or curled leaves → **Overfeeding**
- Weak/light green leaves → **Underfeeding**
- Yellow leaves → Try drying out first; if persistent, add **½ tsp Epsom salts** or use **liquid iron** (Greenall or Sequesterine)

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

Page 3 of 5

Pest Control

- **Control aphids** by spraying every **2–3 weeks** with:
 - **Liquid Diazinon**, or
 - **100% Cold Pressed Neem oil with Azadirachtin** for an **organic method**.
- Always wear **respiratory and skin protection** when using any spray.
- Check out this video – **All neem Oil is not the same**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULKEJ6ATccM&t=1s>

Fertilizing

- Begin **fertilizing weekly** starting the **3rd or 4th week after potting**.
- Use an **early season fertilizer (12-45-10)** — high in phosphorus for strong root development.
- Apply at **½ teaspoon per gallon of water**.

Staking

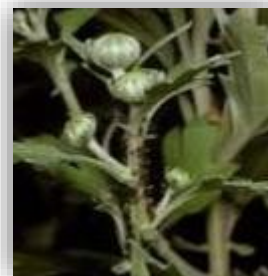
- For **taller varieties**, use **bamboo skewers** and **twist ties** to support stems.

Stopping / Pinching

- Most mums are **pinched between mid-April and mid-June**.
- **Exception:** *James Bryant* — do **not pinch**; let it grow naturally.
- **Pinching encourages branching:**
 - Remove the top **1 inch** above the first leaf set below the growing tip.
 - Two or three side shoots will emerge.
 - Keep the **upper 3–6 laterals** depending on cultivar; remove the rest.

Timing and Purpose:

- Pinching helps time blooms for the **fall show (late October)**.
- **Pinch lists** for ECA cultivars are available on the **ECA website** (*Cultivars of ECA* – www.ecamumclub.org) and at the **May meeting**.
- For **UK varieties:**
 - **Classes #1 and #2:** Hard pinch, 6–8 leaves down.
 - **Classes #3, #13, #23:** Light pinch of the growing tip.
- **Tip:** Fertilize 1–2 weeks before pinching to encourage lateral growth (especially for Fairweathers).



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 100% cold pressed 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.

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

B-Nine (Daminozide) Information

Purpose:

- Reduces plant height by shortening internodes.
- Produces **stronger stems, greener foliage, and more compact growth.**

Usage Tips:

- Apply when shoots are **2.5–5 cm (≈1–2") long**, about **2 weeks after pinching.**
- Repeat every **2–3 weeks** as needed.
- Do **not apply after buds form** to avoid flowering delay.
- Prepare fresh solution each day — **discard after 24 hours.**
- Apply in **morning or evening** on **dry, well-watered plants.**
- Avoid watering for **2–3 hours after spraying.**
- Do **not mix with copper-based products** or apply within **7 days** of copper sprays (leaf burn risk).
- Always use **PPE (personal protective equipment).**

Do Not Use On:

- *Chrysanthemum Fandango.*

Possible Side Effects:

- May delay flowering on some varieties — test new cultivars first.

Benefits for Chrysanthemums:

- Stronger, shorter stems
- Compact, well-branched plants
- Richer green foliage
- Increased drought and pollution resistance