

## Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

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

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### Presidents Message

Hi All,

Our next ECA meeting will be Saturday, April 5th at 10 am in the Sharon Priebe Education Wing at Volunteer Park Conservatory. Plan to bring any plant starts you wish to donate to our plant sales. At this meeting plant starts will be available for club members to purchase. Because we are holding our public plant sale the second Saturday of April we are holding our monthly meeting the first Saturday. At the end of this meeting we will be able to leave our plant starts at the conservatory for our April 12<sup>th</sup> public plant sale. Hope to see you all there!

### 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 5th meeting.

### Purchasing ECA Plant Starts

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

An active ECA member has:

- a) Attended at least 2 meetings in the past 12 months or
- b) Participated in the 2024 ECA show or
- c) Volunteered at the 2024 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

### Tilth Alliance Edible Plant Sale

We will have plant starts for sale at the Tilth Alliance plant sale May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Wallingford. The primary purpose for our participation in this event is exposure. Not many people know of our existence even though our club has been active for over 78 years. Plans for this event will be finalized after our April public plant sale.



### Upcoming Events

#### April 5

ECA meeting & club plant sale 10 am - Noon

#### April 11

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

#### April 12

ECA Public Plant Sale  
9 am – 3 pm

#### May 3

ECA meeting & club plant sale 10 am – Noon

#### May 10-11

Tilth Plant Sale  
9 am – 3 pm

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### 2025 ECA membership dues

#### ECA Dues:

**\$15 single**

**\$20 household**

**Mail checks to ECA PO BOX  
66155 Burien, WA 98166**

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

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## 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

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 outdoors to a sunny location.

### 6. 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.



## Feature Cultivar - Alexis

### Description – Pink Incurve

### English Classification – Intermediate Incurve (5)

A delicate bloom with pink incurved petals that originated in the UK. 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

2 inch starting pots

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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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.



### 41<sup>st</sup> Japan National Chrysanthemum Convention Nov 1, 2024



This picture is of competitive twelve pot entries at the 41st Japan National Chrysanthemum Convention show held in the grounds of a branch of the Kokka nursery near Osaka. The bloom arrangement in each pot is like a vase of 3 blooms, except in this case the plant has to be grown to display them this way. An impressive feature is that the leaves are green right down to the rim of the pot. Historically the 3 blooms in each pot represent heaven, earth and man. Heaven was the highest bloom, followed by earth and man, being the lowest.

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