

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

www.ecamumclub.org

www.facebook.com/www.evergreenmumclub.org

Presidents Message

Hi All,

I hope you are enjoying our beautiful Northwest summer. Steve and I are starting to see buds on many of our chrysanthemums so we are busy "taking the bud". If you are unfamiliar with that term then go back to the July cultural notes.

ECA PICNIC

On **Saturday, August 9th at 10:30 am** we will hold our annual picnic at the **Kubota Gardens - 9817 55th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118-5710**

. Be sure to bring a guest, your spouse or significant other. This will be a great opportunity for us to meet and thank those (our significant others) who directly and indirectly support ECA. The Kubota Gardens is a 20 acre landscape in South Seattle that blends Japanese garden concepts with native Northwest plants. A picnic lunch after touring the gardens will be provided by of ECA. **Hope to see you all there!**

If you plan to attend the picnic please RSVP via text or a phone call to 360-303-8284 by Thursday 8/7/25 so the correct amount of food can be purchased.

More picnic details below...

ECA ANNUAL PICNIC

Where: KUBOTA GARDENS <https://kubotagarden.org/visit.html>

9817 55th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118-5710

When: Saturday, August 9th – 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Entrance Fee: No charge to enjoy the gardens

The parking lot entrance is on 55th Ave S near Renton Ave S.

Additional free, street parking is available along 55th Ave S and Renton Ave. S.

There are several picnic tables on site. Please bring a camp chair if you have one.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 9 – ECA Annual Picnic

Kubota Gardens
9817 55th Ave S, Seattle, WA
98118-5710
10 am to 1 pm

Saturday, September 13

ECA Meeting
Sharon Priebe Wing –
Volunteer Park
Conservatory 10 am – Noon

Saturday, October 12

ECA Meeting
Sharon Priebe Wing –
Volunteer Park
Conservatory 10 am – Noon

Friday, October 31 – Sunday November 2

Annual ECA
Chrysanthemum Show
In the Annual House – at
Volunteer Park
Conservatory 10 am – 4
pm daily

The glory of gardening: our hands in the dirt, our heads in the sun, our hearts with nature. We nurture our soul

ECA will provide Ezell's Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans Coleslaw and Dessert. Plates, Cutlery and drinks will also be provided.

A Kubota Park Map is attached.

We will be meeting at the picnic tables near the handicapped parking area at 10:30 am. For a self-guided tour of the gardens.

Lunch will be served at Noon.

August Cultural Notes

- August is still a major growing month so continue with the usual summer watering feeding and pest control programs up until the buds are taken.
- Continue to stake and reduce the number of laterals as buds appear. Experience suggests there is no way to get too much support for the laterals and blooms.
- By Mid-August switch to the bloom cycle program with new fertilizing, watering and plant care programs so stay alert.
- Lastly, establish a sheltering plan for you plants. You'll want your plants under shelter by the second week of September to protect the blooms from wind and rain

FERTILIZING AND WATERING:

Continue your mid-season feeding and watering program right up till the bud is taken.

Water thoroughly when you water then let the plants almost dry out before watering again.

On hot days water early in the morning or later in the evening. Don't water the plant just because you are passing by with the hose. Wait till it needs watering!

Feed with midseason liquid fertilizer until the bud is taken.

Remember too much feed causes plant leaves to get turgid and turn over; so reduce it or skip a feeding. Overfeeding in August will probably ruin your blooms.

When the buds appear, stop feeding or reduce the feed level by half for 2 to 3 weeks, then resume feeding with late season fertilizer at half concentration

STAKING AND LATERAL CONTROL:

The glory of gardening: our hands in the dirt, our heads in the sun, our hearts with nature. We nurture our soul



Feature Cultivar

Jessie Habgood

Description – White Irregular

English Classification – Large Exhibition (1)

Plant Height – 4 feet

Disbud size – 8 inches diameter

Jessie Habgood was raised by Jack Woolman and released in the UK in 1948. Making Jessie one of the oldest heirloom mums in our club.

Ivor Mace takes a root cutting of this variety in January pinches it twice - 3/21 and 5/15

Ivor states they don't use much water as most other varieties. When bud Sets around 8/10 it will time appropriately for show.

Continue staking the laterals you want to keep and culling those that you don't want.

FLUSHING AND TOP DRESSING:

As we mentioned in the July cultural notes - flush your pots to reduce the accumulation of salts on the pot and in the growing medium. For flushing, fill the pot with clear water, let it drain, refill and drain twice more. After you have completed the flushing, follow up with top dressing. Spread 1-2 hands full of the 9" mix on each pot. This gives the upper roots a better growing environment now and helps promote new shoots for next season. And lastly, fertilize at half strength.

PEST MANAGEMENT:

Continue to review your pest control program every 1-2 weeks. Keep the plants free of black aphids, other bugs and fungal diseases, especially before the blooms open.

Azadirachtin, extracted from neem seeds is an effective organic insecticide. To ensure that you are purchasing the most effective neem solution review the notes distributed after our May meeting – the subject was “What you need to know about Neem oil.”

Marathon systemic is the most effective black aphid control. Apply once per growing season to each pot at the rate of ½ tsp per pot to control aphids. Some other insects such as leaf hoppers, leaf rollers, earwigs and Capsid bugs need to be picked off the plants or they will invariably ruin the bud. Earwigs are particularly dangerous, and a product called Seven when spread around the roots and or sprayed on the plant can be very effective in controlling them.

DISEASE CONTROL:

Spray every 2 to 3 weeks with a fungicide and insecticide up until the bud breaks the membrane and the petals start to drop. Always use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when using insecticides and fungicides.

BLOOMS AND BLOOM SUPPORT:

Secure buds as they appear. Look for “rabbit-ear” leaves below the tiny bud. As the bud reaches the size of a very small pea, it should be secured by removing the ring of side buds and the other side shoots that may appear in the leaf axils below. This action is called “taking the Bud”. After the bud is taken the plant will start producing side shoots. Keep all these sides shoots removed so that the plant strength will go into developing the bud. Bloom support stakes should be tied to the main stake and to the bloom stem. Bloom support stakes will be available at the August meeting.

The glory of gardening: our hands in the dirt, our heads in the sun, our hearts with nature. We nurture our soul

Pictures from our Cascades and Bonsai workshop



Supplies Available at Picnic:

M&R Mix
Mid-Season Fertilizer
Late Season Fertilizer
Twist Ties
Bloom Support stakes
B9
Bonide Systemic

BLOOM CYCLE CARE:

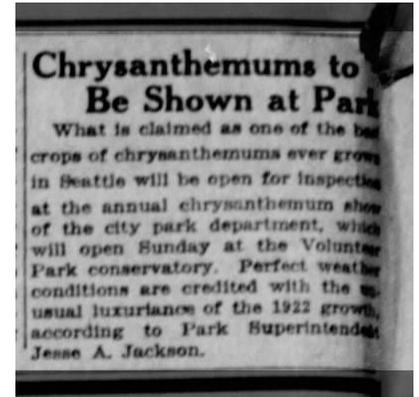
By mid-August, after the buds have been taken, it's time to revise our feeding and watering program. First we switch to a new fertilizer formulation that is higher in potash content. At the same time we reduce liquid fertilizing feed to half concentration. We also change our watering program as well.

Once you've taken the bud we want to give the plant a potash boost to start the hardening off cycle. Starting the second week in August we feed each pot with ½ tsp of granular sulfate of potash, applied to the top of the pot and repeat 2 weeks later with ¼ tsp potash. Water it in so as not to burn the roots. This is to harden off the plants and promote better bloom development.

As soon as the bud has been taken (Sometimes that' in July instead of August), we reduce our liquid feeding level to ½ to ¼ what you were previously using. If you have been feeding heavily, you might want to reduce it further so as not to damage the bud in its early development stage. A good position at this time is ½ tsp per Gal. of water once a week of our new bloom cycle fertilizer formulation with a higher potash concentration

Finally, anticipate your housing needs and start preparations to get your show flowers under cover by the first or second week of Sept.

Chrysanthemums at VPC in 1922



Here's a November 6, 1922 Seattle Times article describing the "luxuriant" growth of the Chrysanthemums at VPC in the fall of 1922

Early Blooming Mums? Do the Puyallup!

Early blooms?
Take them to the fair!

Fair dates - August 29th - September 21st, 2024.

Exhibitor/Entry Online Registration is due by 10pm, Monday, August 25th.

No Entry Fee

All you need to know about participating in the Puyallup fair floral competition. Here's the link for floral entry at the fair - https://www.datocms-assets.com/118003/1753727858-wsf25_floral.pdf

The glory of gardening: our hands in the dirt, our heads in the sun, our hearts with nature. We nurture our soul

Page 4 of 4
