

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

www.ecamumclub.org

www.facebook.com/www.evergreenmumclub.org

Hi All

It's hard to believe that January 2025 is now just memory!

At this time of the growing season, we are busy collecting growing supplies, watering and fertilizing our plant stools to promote stock growth, taking cuttings, creating our 2026 growing plan and looking forward to a successful and abundant growing year

If you're looking for inspiration as you develop your growing plan, be sure to visit the varietal listing link on the home page of ECA's website at **www.ecamumclub.org**. It's a great resource when selecting varieties for the upcoming season.

While we all have our favorite mums and dependable producers, consider trying something new this year. Experimenting with new varieties can be both rewarding and fun. And remember—when making your growing plan, don't hesitate to ask for help. We have many experienced growers within ECA who are always willing to assist.

For those planning ahead for the fall show, keep in mind that varieties with classification numbers ending in **3, 4, or 5** offer the greatest flexibility at show time and are worth considering as you finalize your selections.

Some varietal examples include Ed Hodgson (23), Black Magic (24), Cornetto (25), Doreen Statham (14), Fort Vancouver (13), Geroge Couchman (15), and, Primrose Tennis (15)

We've been lucky so far this winter, but we still need to watch the weather and be mindful of freeze protection strategies. Stools will probably survive one or two frosty days in a row; however a third frosty day will likely kill the them. Protecting the stools from rain (keeping them dry) promotes semi dormancy. There is a much higher risk of frost kill when your plant stools are wet.

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



Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 14, 2026

Happy Valentines Day!

No ECA Meeting

meeting will be held

February 21st

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Cutting University

10 am – 2 pm

Lower greenhouse potting
shed

Saturday, March 14, 2026

ECA Meeting

10 am – Noon at Volunteer

Park Conservatory Sharon

Priebe Education Wing

2026 ECA membership dues

ECA Dues:

\$15 single

\$20 household

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

2026 ECA Calendar

Saturday, February 14, 2026

**10 am – Noon
meeting will be held
February 21st**

***Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**10 am – 2 pm
Focus - Cutting University**

Saturday, March 14, 2026

**10 am – Noon
Focus - Club Plant Sale**

Saturday, April 11, 2026

**10 am – Noon
Focus - Club Plant Sale**

Saturday April 18, 2026

**9 am – Noon
Focus - Public Plant
Sale**

Saturday, May 9, 2026

**10 am – Noon
Focus - Bonsai and
Cascades**

Saturday, June 13, 2026

**10 am – Noon
Focus - Hybridization
discussion**

Saturday, July 12, 2026

**10 am – Noon
Focus – Taking he Bud**

If you haven't already started, now is the time to bring the stools into a heated area and feed with a dose of high Nitrogen fertilizer such as Miracle grow to stimulate new growth. It will take 2 to 4 weeks for shoots to develop enough to take cuttings. Shoots need to be a minimum of 2 inches tall for a good cutting.

Remember that stools should be kept in a semi dormant period until 20-30 days before you wish to take cuttings. To wake them up and promote shoot growth feed moderately with a high nitrogen fertilizer such as our mid-season fertilizer (20-10-20) or Miracle Gro.

At our house this translates to moving in and heating the old stools in late Dec. so that we can start new cuttings in mid to late January. It's good practice to start the late flowering varieties (1-5) first. There's more discussion on this topic in the cultural notes below. At this point we all should have several plant stools already producing good shoots for our January cuttings.

As you are bringing your plant stools out of dormancy you may find that you will have some non-producers. If you fear you have lost specific varieties pass that information along to our membership via email or at the meeting. Sharing this information will prompt others to start more cuttings and help replace your lost stock.

Attending our monthly meetings is a great way to learn from our experienced growers. I encourage you to bring your questions and share your growing experiences!

Our cutting University will be held on Saturday, February 21st between 10 am and 2 pm at Volunteer Park Conservatory in the lower potting shed.

We will be taking early English, late decorative, spiders, spools, quills and garden variety starts for the public plant sale. If you have plant stools please bring them to the cutting college so we can take cuttings. Many hands make light work. This is a great learning opportunity for members who have not taken cuttings before. We look forward to your participation. Bring your labeled stools that have healthy shoots. We will have pizza and salad for lunch-provided by the club.

Supplies available at meeting:

M&R soil less mix

Twist ems

Early Season Fertilizer

Plant tags

B9

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Page 2 of 6

ECA Cutting University - Saturday February 21, 2026 10 am - 2 pm

Action: Learn how to propagate chrysanthemums from cuttings.

Bring your LABELED plant stools that have root stock to the cutting college so cuttings can be taken

Why: we want all of our club members to know how to propagate mums from cuttings

Contact: Sue Joyner suej56@comcast.net

There's always the question about growing mums on last year's stools...

Mums grow best on new roots because new roots absorb nutrients better than old roots which become woodier with age.

Designated Mum Mentors:

Action: Request a mum mentor if you're new to growing chrysanthemums or simply interested in getting advice.

Contact: Sue Joyner at suej56@comcast.net or 360-303-8284

Washington Pottery - wholesale clay pot resource

Action: Wholesale clay pot distributor

Vendor Website: www.washingtonpottery.com

Contact: Sue Joyner suej56@comcast.net

Note: Contact Sue Joyner for ECA login account information.



February 2026 Cultural Notes

Cuttings

Continue taking cuttings throughout February and into March. A few early February cuttings may be ready for the March/April plant sales (Members Sales at the March and April meetings, and the Public Plant Sale in April).

- Most February and March cuttings should be **early English and American varieties**.
- **Late Decoratives (Classes 4, 5, 14, and 15)** should be started primarily in February.
- Take cuttings both for **your own plants and for the plant sale**.

Most varieties in **Classes 1, 2, and 3** should have been started by the end of January. However, the following varieties can be successfully grown from February cuttings:

- **Classes 1 & 2:**
Lundy, Yellow Lundy, David Dando, Ralph Lambert, Yellow Ralph Lambert, Athabasca, Harry Gee, Jane Sharpe, Seychelles
- **Class 3:**
Len Hall, Salmon and Primrose Fairweathers, Yellow Fairweathers, Stockton, Heather James

Fertilizing Cuttings

- Cuttings started **directly in cutting bed media** generally do **not** require fertilization before potting on.
- Cuttings started in **cross-bottom bands or 2" clay pots** usually take **5-6 weeks** before potting on and **do require fertilizer**.
 - Begin fertilizing **once a week starting in the 4th week**.
 - Use an early mum fertilizer:
 - Peters **9-45-15** or Plant Marvel **12-45-10**
 - Rate: **1 teaspoon per gallon, once weekly**

Potting On

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most growers use the **soiless M&R potting mix** sold by the club.

- No additives are required for early pottings (2" and 4" pots), though some growers add **alfalfa meal or pellets** as a stimulant.
- **Avoid bone meal**, as excess potassium often leads to fungal growth on the soil surface.

General Guidelines

- Pot mums:
 - From cutting beds or pods directly into **2" pots**, or
 - From starter bands or pots into **3" or 4" pots**
- Use **new pots**, or wash used pots in a mild bleach (Clorox) solution to kill moss and eliminate viruses. Rinse thoroughly afterward.
- **Clay pots** are recommended for 4", and 6" sizes, as they dry out better than plastic—especially important during cool March and April conditions.

Timing

- From cutting beds: pot on when roots are $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long (typically 4 weeks) into **2½" or 3" pots**.
- From bands or pots: pot on when roots are growing thickly out of the container (typically 6 weeks).
- **Do not compact the mix.**
- Place newly potted mums **out of direct light or under the bench for 2–3 days** to encourage root growth.

Care

- Shelter mums in a **greenhouse, cold frame, or other protected location** (even a kitchen table or south-facing window).
- Maintain temperatures between **50–60°F**.
- **Glass overhead** helps prevent plants from becoming leggy.

Growth Regulation

ECA 2025 Fall Show



- **B-9** is an effective growth retardant and is available through the club.
 - Apply at **potting on** and again at or near **pinch time**.
 - **Do not use B-9** on naturally short varieties, including all Fairweathers, all Alexis, Port Stanley, and similar types.

ECA 2025 Show Blooms

Ongoing Care

- Plants will remain in this first potting for **4–6 weeks**, until a noticeable root ring forms at the bottom of the pot.
- Periodically knock the root ball out to inspect root development.
- Begin fertilizing in the **4th week** with:
 - **9-45-15 or 12-45-10**
 - **1 teaspoon per gallon, once weekly**
- Fertilizers are available through the club at monthly meetings.

