

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

www.ecamumclub.org

www.facebook.com/www.evergreenmumclub.org

Hi All,

Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas. I am looking forward to a happy and healthy New Year!

Our next meeting will be held January 10, 2026 at Volunteer Park Conservatory at 10 am

Even though it's cold outside there's lots to do in January to prepare for the 2026 growing season!

- 1) Clean and prepare your cutting beds;
- 2) replenish your starting supplies;
- 3) Get your stools growing and producing shoots for cuttings; and
- 4) Establish your 2026 growing plan (including the varieties and quantities you plan to grow).

Speaking of the cold...

During this time of year frost and freeze protection strategies should be in place. Stools will probably survive one or two frosty days in a row, however a 3rd frost likely will kill many of the stools. Protecting stools from rain (keeping the plants dry) promotes necessary semi-dormancy. When stools are wet there is a much higher risk of frost kill.

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.

If you need some inspiration developing your growing plan take a look at the main page of the ECA website - www.ecamumclub.org. There you will find a link to a list of most of the varieties grown by ECA club members.



Upcoming Events

January 10

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

Saturday, February 14, 2026

No ECA Meeting
meeting will be held
February 21st

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Cutting University
10 am – 2 pm
Lower greenhouse potting
shed

2026 ECA membership dues

ECA Dues:
\$15 single
\$20 household

Mail checks to ECA PO BOX
66155 Burien, WA 98166

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

We all have our favorites and those that are reliable producers however, I encourage you to try something new. When making your growing plan, don't hesitate to ask for help. We have many experienced growers willing to assist.

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.

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.

2026 ECA Calendar

Saturday, January 10, 2026

10 am – Noon

Focus -Cutting Preparations

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 the Bud

Saturday, August 9, 2026

ECA Picnic

Saturday, Sept 13, 2026

10 am – Noon

Focus – Finishing Blooms

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January Cultural Notes

January 2026 Cultural Notes

Get Ready for Next Year's Cuttings:

- **Outdoor Care:** Keep your stools outside but protected from the cold, wind, rain, and slugs. Let them chill and stay dry until 2-4 weeks before you take cuttings.
- **Chilling:** This chilling period helps produce stronger cuttings. Plants can handle 1-2 nights of freezing down to 28°F, but 3+ nights may be harmful.
- **Cold Snap Protection:** Use a garage, greenhouse, shed, or tarp to protect plants during severe cold snaps. During extreme cold placing Christmas lights under the covering may protect plants from freezing.
- **Pre-Cutting Prep:** 2-4 weeks before you want to take cuttings, move stools to a warm area (around 60°F) and feed with high nitrogen fertilizer (like Miracle-Gro) to stimulate new growth. For example, heat the stools by mid-December if starting new cuttings in mid to late January.

Clean and Refill Your Cutting Beds:

- **Regular Maintenance:** Every 3-4 years, clean out old cutting beds, spray with fungicide, and refill with fresh sand. The sand in the cutting beds helps to distribute the heating pad heat.

Basic Cutting Bed Setup:

- **Heat:** Use heat cables or pads to keep the temperature between 65-69°F. Rigid foam insulation underneath helps retain heat.
- **Depth:** Cutting media should be about 3" deep.
- **Size:** Choose a size that fits standard trays (11"x22"). Mats usually match tray sizes.
- **Lighting:** Use an overhead fluorescent light (a 2-bulb, 4ft shop light works well). Regular white light bulbs are effective and cheaper than special grow bulbs.

NOTE: If you are interested in getting help designing or setting up your cutting bed, reach out to club members to walk you through process. Cutting beds come in all sizes, shapes and configurations.

Inventory your propagation supplies

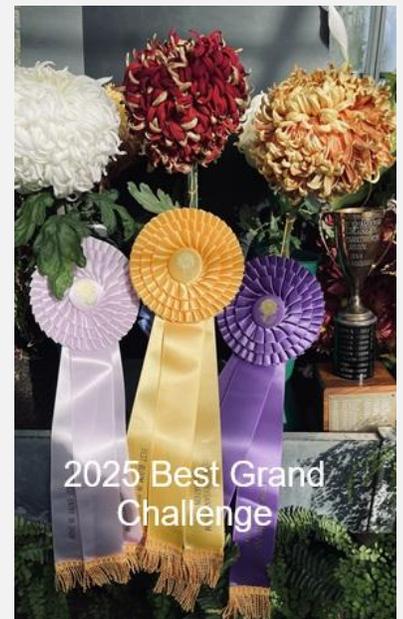
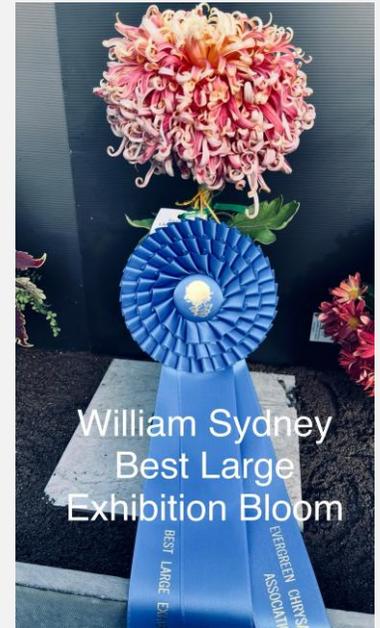
- Plant tags
- 2 1/2 inch plastic pots or peat trays
- Starting medium - club members can purchase M&R mix from the club

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ECA 2025 Show Blooms

SUPPLIES:

- M&R soil less mix
- Plant tags
- Twist ems
- Early Season Fertilizer
- B9



- Sunshine #4 available at Home depot is an excellent alternative starting medium. Sold in 1 CU foot bales

- Early season fertilizer - club members can purchase 9-45-15, or 12-45-10

Make a start date and pinch date plan

- Lay out your annual growing plan- what classifications, varieties and how many you plan to grow.
- Use your growing plan determine when you need to take cuttings

Starting and Cutting dates

- By keeping good records of your plant start dates, potting dates, pinch dates and bloom results you will be able to hone in on the time frames that work best for you.
- Different varieties require different starting dates to get the best flowering bloom before the end of the growing season.
- A basic tenant for pot grown plants is that the plants seldom bud out until they become root bound. So for most of the year we focus primarily on root development
- In order to have sufficient time to develop a strong, fully developed root system by mid-August plants need to be in their final pots (8" or 9" pots) between June 1st and 15th

RECOMMENDED START DATES:

Late Dec & early to mid-January -Mount Rainer, Elsie Prosser James Bryant, Keith Luxford, All Fairweathers,

Most Fantasies (Spiders, quills and spoons). King George,

plus anything you plan to grow for specimen plants (10 or more blooms).

Late Jan. - Connie Mathew, Seychelles, Dukes, Jessie Habgood

February- Lundys, Harry Gees (all), Jane Sharpe, Ralph Lamberts, Athabasca,

Late Feb. to early March, - Lots of #4s & #5s plus garden varieties.

ECA 2025 Show Blooms



Taking cuttings:

Three methods -

1. utilize a cutting bed where cuttings are placed in a row in the starting medium - advantage: produce more roots per cutting
2. utilize 2 1/2 inch starting cubes placing the cuttings directly into the cube
3. utilize 72 count earth pot trays. Insert cuttings directly into each module. - advantage: a denser starting flat

options 2 and 3 do not require a cutting bed but you still need to provide controlled heat, overhead lighting, tray covers and overhead misting

Use of B-Nine to control plant Height.

1. first application when you pot up to 4 inch pots.
2. Do not use B9 ton any cultivars that tend to have short stems including - Fairweathers, Alexis, West Bromwich and King George.

ECA 2025 Show Blooms

