

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

www.ecamumclub.org

www.facebook.com/www.evergreenmumclub.org

Presidents Message

Hi All,

Happy gardening. I hope your mums are thriving!

Now is the time to get into a plant care cycle – water as needed, fertilize every other week, alternate insecticide and fungicide the opposite weeks

Our next ECA meeting will be **Saturday, June 14th at 10 am in the Sharon Priebe Education Wing** at Volunteer Park Conservatory.

You've now got your plant starts so now the plant care really begins and as you will see by the included cultural notes we have a lot of information to cover. Here's some key points -

- 1) **Now is the time to be pinching your plants** - bring your questions to the meeting. Heck, bring your plants in question to the meeting!
- 2) **By the end of June your plants should be in their final pots** - in the final potting section there is also good information on soil composition.
- 3) Once in the final pots, fertilizer, **pesticide and disease control regimens should be in place**
- 4) **Control plant laterals.** After you pinch the growing tip from the plant laterals will begin to show up - control them!!
- 5) **Support the plant.** Once the plants get about 6 inches tall the main stalk needs support. The laterals you choose to keep must also be supported. We call this staking.

You've now got your plant starts so now the plant care really begins and as you will see by the included cultural notes we have a lot of information to cover.

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association Plant Sale

Thank you to all the ECA volunteers that helped at our annual plant sale. Your help was greatly appreciated. While it didn't appear



Upcoming Events

June 14

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

July 13

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

Aug 9 – ECA Annual Picnic

2025 ECA membership dues

ECA Dues:

\$15 single

\$20 household

Mail checks to ECA PO BOX
66155 Burien, WA 98166

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that many buyers came through the day of the plant sale, our April net sales (including the April club plant sale) was \$2825.

Tilth Plant Sale

It was a glorious Saturday at Meridian Park in the Wallingford neighborhood. Thank you to David Rynes, Mark Ross, Susan Soon, and Randal Tanabe - the Tilth plant sale ECA volunteers. Your help was greatly appreciated. We brought approximately 200 plant starts to the tilth plant sale and sold out by the end of the day on Saturday. After all was said and done we grossed \$458

June Cultural Notes

For all varieties, **fertilize 1-2 weeks before pinching to produce more laterals**

Stopping:

Most plants are stopped April 15 through June 1, including the Early English classes.

Hard Pinch #1 and #2 varieties - pinch 6-8 leaves down from the growing tip.

For the incurves, #3, #13, #23 pinch the smallest portion of the growing tip to get more uniform growth of the laterals.

Final Potting into 8", 9" or 10" pots. (Or maybe in the garden soil)

If potting - Clean Pots

Before use, to rid your pots of mineral deposits & disease organisms, it is important to clean & disinfect old pots in a mild Clorox (bleach bath). To disinfect pots, soak them in a solution containing one part household bleach to 9 parts water for a minimum of 15 minutes. **Important last step - Rinse in clear water to rid the pot of bleach.** Bleach will kill your plants

Potting medium:

M&R Soilless-6 parts, Compost or loam-4 parts, Coarse pumice-1 part Horse manure-1/2 part, Alfalfa Meal- a hand full.

The Compost or loam is added primarily to ensure a lot of trace elements and to improve the moisture holding capability of the mix so that the pots don't require watering twice a day for instance. The horse manure provides lots of microbes to quicken the soil break down and release of the nutrients. Many growers have gone into the final potting using the straight M&R mix with some significant success

Potting process:

Progressive potting technique – 2 inch to 4 inch to 6 inch to final potting into 8, 9 or 10 inch pots



Feature Cultivar – White Harry Gee

Description – White Irregular

English Classification – Large Exhibition (1)

Plant Height – 4 feet

Disbud size – 8 inches diameter

The White Harry Gee sport was introduced by Alan Wren in the UK in 1974. Ivor Mace's website reports that this cultivar is now lost.

Interestingly, about 3 to 4 years ago David Rynes sported a White Harry Gee & was able to consistently reproduce it. Until this year, only ECA club members had access to this lost varietal.

This past winter David delivered White Harry Gee to members of the UK NCS

Ivor Mace pinches Harry Gees twice - 4/15 and 6/15 Considered a big rooter so use a 10 inch pot

Ivor states when bud Sets around 8/12 it will time appropriately for show.

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Fertilizing:

3 weeks after final potting start summer feeding program.

Note: Some plants will thrive with the heavier solution, while others may not like so much fertilizer.

Fertilize weekly using a mid-season 20-10-20 fertilizer - 1 to 2 Tsp per gallon water. Watch the leaves to gauge the fertilizer needs. If leaves become hard and curl up you are overfeeding. If leaves are somewhat weak and lighter green then more fertilizer would help. If plants are yellowish, first try drying them out. If drying the plant is unsuccessful, feed ½ tsp. Epsom Salt per plant. Leaf feeding of liquid iron such as Greenall or Sequesterine also helps green up the plant. Follow product directions. Do not over feed Liquid Iron.

Pest Management:

Always use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when using insecticides and fungicides.

Review your pest management program every 2 weeks.

Azadirachtin, extracted from neem seeds is an effective organic insecticide. To ensure that you are purchasing the most effective neem solution review the links below

Marathon systemic is the most effective black aphid control. However this product is no longer sold in Washington. An alternative is Bonide systemic which is effective for 8 weeks then must be reapplied. Diazinon and most rose insecticides are somewhat less effective, and require spraying every 2 weeks, as they are contact insecticides.

1) What You Need to Know Before Buying Neem Oil for Your Plants

<https://www.urbangardeningmom.com/blogs/news/neem-oil>

2) Explaining Azadirachtin and Neem

<https://gpnmag.com/article/explaining-azadirachtin-and-neem/>

Tilth Plant Sale Photos



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