

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

www.ecamumclub.org

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Presidents Message

Hi All,

Our next ECA meeting will be **Saturday, May 3rd at 10 am in the Lower greenhouse** at Volunteer Park Conservatory. Because we are participating in Tilth plant sale the second Saturday of May we are holding our monthly meeting the first Saturday. The Friends of the conservatory plant sale will be taking place in our usual meeting location so parking will be a challenge. This will also be the last opportunity to purchase plant starts.

At our may meeting Travis and Emily will be demonstrating how to start and train Chrysanthemum cascades and Bonsais. Bring your questions.

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.

April Public Plant Sale

Thank you to all the ECA plant sale volunteers. Your help was greatly appreciated. Our annual plant sale is the only ECA fund raising activity that we do. We will have the Public plant sale final cash sale total at our May meeting.

Welcome to our new ECA members - Tracy Sundby, Kiau Soh and Lindsay Jahng

Participation is the key to success. We look forward to sharing our knowledge of and passion for growing and showing chrysanthemums with you.

Tilth Alliance Edible Plant Sale

We will have plant starts for sale at the Tilth Alliance plant sale May 10th and 11th in Wallingford. 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 at our May 3rd meeting.

Upcoming Events

May 3

ECA meeting
Lower Green House
Volunteer Park Conservatory
Bonsai and Cascades
10 am - Noon

May 10-11

Tilth Plant Sale
9 am – 3 pm

June 14

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

2025 ECA membership dues

ECA Dues:

\$15 single

\$20 household

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

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

May Cultural Notes

When to pot up your Chrysanthemums

Pot up mums when they are semi root bound – a significant ring of roots forms around the bottom edge of the pot. Do not compact the potting mix.

Plant Support

Recommend using Bamboo Skewer and twist tie to support plants in 4 & 6 inch pots

Acclimate (Harden) Chrysanthemums

Move mum pots outdoors as weather warms & overnight frost is no longer a threat. Choose a sunny location.

Potting medium when potting on mums into 4" or 6" pots

2 recommendations:

1) Soilless M&R mix - available exclusively to ECA members.

OR Sunshine # 4 professional mix – available at home Depot or other garden centers

This mix is PH balanced at 6.5 and contains a good mix of fertilizers that carry the plant for 3-4 weeks. Plants requires no additives at this time, however some growers like to add a little Alfalfa meal and some additional pumice for increased aeration.

2) Custom compost mix - compost, or garden loam plus slacked Lime or Dolomite to keep soil sweet plus Steamed Bone to promote root growth. Also, ashes and a little Rose & garden fertilizer (i.e. 4-10-8 or 5-10-10) Pumice or grit may be added to loosen the soil mix.

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

Clay pots are recommended for 4 or 6 inch potting because they breathe & dry out faster during cool April days. The porosity of clay allows air & moisture to penetrate the sides of the pot. Clay pots also act like a wick to remove excess moisture from the potting soil. If using plastic pots, water sparingly. Chrysanthemums do not like wet feet. Overwatering when plants are in 4 inch pots may rot the roots.



Feature Cultivar – Harry Gee

Description – Pink Irregular

English Classification – Large Exhibition (1)

Pink irregular petals
Originated in the UK
Bred by Jack Woolman and released in 1967

When grown as disbud it can reach 8 inches in diameter. The plant grows to a height of about 4 feet and usually has a strong stalk.

Ivor Mace pinches this one 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

Grows best in wet seasons

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Pest Control - Please use respiratory protection when spraying any kind of chemicals

Spray every 2 or 3 weeks, with liquid Diazinon or neem oil with Azadirachtin for an effective organic method to control insects and pests. Here are some interesting links about Neem Oil

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/>

Fertilizing

Fertilize weekly starting the 3rd or 4th week after potting using an early season fertilizer (ie 12-45-10) high in phosphorus which promotes strong root development. Early season fertilizers should be applied at ½ Teaspoon per gallon of water.

Stopping/Pinching:

Between mid-April and mid-June most mums need to be pinched. The exception being James Bryant. David Rynes recommends don't pinch it at all, let it grow.

Pinching is a form of pruning that encourages branching on the plant. When you pinch a plant you are removing the growing tip, forcing the plant to grow two new stems from the leaf nodes below the pinch or cut.

How to Pinch

Fertilize 1-2 weeks before pinching to produce more laterals. Pinch growing tip just above the first set of leaves below growing tip. Hard pinch UK classifications 1s and 2s (6 -8 leaves down from growing tip). For incurves 3s, 13s, 23s pinch 1 inch from growing tip. Once pinched, 2 or 3 side shoots will progressively emerge from the leaf axis below the stop. It's a good idea to keep the upper three to six laterals depending upon the cultivar. Remove all others.

Why pinch between April and mid-June? The pinch date is used to time the mum to reach full bloom. ECA pinch date recommendations are timed for our show in late Oct or early Nov. Different varieties have different pinch dates. Over time, each grower will develop a customized pinch date list reflecting how the mums progress within their particular location.

Recommendation: Pinch mums being planted in the garden in mid to late April to produce blooms in September before bad weather sets in. **Pinch date lists for most club cultivars are on our website CULTIVARS OF ECA.** - www.ecamumclub.org.



Club Member Request

Emily Allsop is looking for the mum starts listed below for use in cascades - Pink Fleece, Spanish Lady or Snowfall. Please let her know if you have these varieties to share

Emily Allsop – 206-550-3182

Supplies available at meeting

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

We have a wholesale clay pot resource - Washington Pottery. Contact Sue Joyner at suej56@comcast.net to get our wholesale access information.

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