

## Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

[www.ecamumclub.org](http://www.ecamumclub.org)

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### Presidents Message

In October our focus is on finishing the blooms, preparing them for transport to the show and the grooming and presentation of the blooms for the show. There are a lot of details in successfully finishing the blooms including care and feeding, sheltering, ventilation, temperature, and; insect and fungal control. Take a look at the October cultural notes about for successful strategies to finish your blooms.

**Our 79th Annual Chrysanthemum show will take place October 31st – November 2nd** at Volunteer Park Conservatory.

**Our October meeting is on Saturday, October 11th** in the Sharon Priebe Education Wing at Volunteer Park Conservatory **from 10 am to noon.**

There's a lot of information in the attached newsletter so please let me know if you have any questions

Please plan to attend our October meeting - learn how to enter blooms in the show and learn how you might volunteer.

### RETURN SHOW TROPHIES

We are in the process of collecting the traveling trophies awarded at the 2024 show. If you have a trophy please bring it to the October meeting in the original box in which you received it. This will allow us time to prepare them for t. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and timely response in ensuring that all trophies are returned in good condition.

### Supplies will be available at the October meeting

- Bloom support stakes      Twist Ties
- Late Season fertilizer      M&R Mix

### Fall Show Schedule –



### Upcoming Events

#### Sat, Oct 11th

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

#### Mon, Oct 27- Wed, Oct 29

Drop off Potted plants for  
show in the Sharon Priebe  
Education Wing

**Thurs, Oct 30th – Bring cut  
blooms for show to Sharon  
Priebe Education Wing;  
Show set up and exhibit  
entry**

#### Fri, Oct 31st – Sun, Nov 2nd

Annual ECA  
Chrysanthemum Show at  
Volunteer Park  
Conservatory 10am -4pm  
daily

#### Sat, Nov 15th

ECA Annual Awards  
Banquet

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### Show advertising:

Flyers to be distributed by membership  
Emails to business list - Sue  
FOC – Emily Alsop  
Social Media - Michael and Susan

### Show weekend calendar:

Show date are:  
Friday, October 31, 2025 11 am - 4 pm  
Saturday, November 1, 2025 10 am - 4 pm  
Sunday, November 2, 2025 10 am - 3 pm

### Show set up and bloom entry is:

Thursday, October 30th between 10 am and 2 pm

Cut Blooms must be brought in on Thursday October 30th between 10 am and 2 pm to the Sharon Priebe Educational Wing. Blooms must be tagged for staging and display

### Monday through Wednesday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 2 pm

Potted plants can be dropped off.  
If you plan to drop off plants Monday through Wednesday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> please contact VPC prior to your arrival to facilitate your drop off. The gates we use are usually locked.  
Additionally, make sure that any potted plants left ahead of the show are adequately watered. The green house is warm and the conservatory staff is not responsible to water for you.  
On Thursday there will be a flurry of ECA activity so the gates will most likely be open all day.

### Ways to volunteer:

#### Seasonal Room set up Thurs Oct 30, 2025 - 2 pm - 5 pm

These tasks involve:

- Setting up tables in the seasonal room
- Transporting and unpacking show vases, signs and show supplies from the storage garage at Volunteer Park
- Filling vases with water

#### Judging assistants - Fri Morning, Oct 30, 2025 8 am and 11 am

**Show Host (3 hour time blocks)** – answering questions about our blooms and our club

**Show Breakdown Sun, Nov 2, 2025 3 pm - 5 pm** (I believe last year we had everything broken down and put away in a little over 2 hours)

These tasks involve:



### Feature Cultivar

### Gigantic

**Description – AOC irregular**

**English Classification – Large Exhibition (1)**

**Plant Height – 4 feet**

**Disbud size – 8 inches diameter**

The Gigantic varietal was raised by Len Shoemith and released in 1962. Gigantic varietal is considered an heirloom mum in our club. The Gigantic family cultivars include Silver Gigantic (1972), Golden (1979), Amber (1981) and Bronze (2003).

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

This Variety is a vigorous grower – 10 inch pot. A big pot produces a big bloom. Once the bud shows color do not over water or over feed.

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- Transporting blooms from the seasonal room to our meeting room
- Taking down tables in the seasonal room
- Sweeping the seasonal room
- Emptying water from vases
- Repacking and Transporting show vases, signs and show supplies back to the storage garage
- Taking tables out of our meeting room
- Sweeping the meeting room

All cut blooms must be picked up from the conservatory Sunday afternoon between 3 and 5 pm. All potted plants must be picked up from the conservatory by Monday, November 3rd at 3 pm

**Volunteers to bring Lunch on Friday October 31st**

## October Cultural Notes

This month the focus is on finishing the blooms, preparing them for transport to the show and the grooming and presentation of the blooms for the show.

### Bloom Support Stakes

- Tie cedar support stakes under the blooms to keep the stems straight and the blooms upright.
- A cocked bloom will be severely discounted by the judges. Keep raising the support stake up against the bottom of the bloom to prevent or correct cocking.

### Feeding and Watering

- Water and feed plants sparingly
- Feed with liquid fertilizer solution about 1 pint at each watering. See fertilizer recommendations below.
- It's a good practice to make up a 30 gallon garbage can of the fertilizer solution and set this can out in the sunlight so that it will remain relatively warm. Then water/feed out of this barrel.
- Note: If you use fresh tap water instead, you will be watering/feeding with a water temperature below 50 deg. That sets back the plant each time you water.
- Water/feed sparingly, preferably around 5:00 pm. Some prefer to water early in the day, but if you do be sure to use the warm water from the barrel.
- **The recommended dilution of the fertilizer is: ½ tsp of the standard 20-10-20 midseason fertilizer plus ¼ tsp Sulphate of Potash (0-0-50) per gallon of water.** That's essentially half

## In Loving Memory Of Masako Kubo

Oct 1, 1931 – July 22, 2025



Once again Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association bids farewell to one of our own, Masako Kubo peacefully passed away on July 22, 2025. She was born in 1931 in Tokorozawa, Japan. On April 8, 1954, she married Masayoshi "Mike" Kubo, a U.S. Army veteran stationed in South Korea. They started their new life together in Seattle, WA. Both Masako and her husband Mike enjoyed growing chrysanthemums and both were members of ECA. While, in recent years, we didn't see her much, she often entered her favorite varietal – Connie Mayhew, in our show. On show weekend Masako also always made sure treats were delivered for those of us volunteering the weekend. Masako loved sharing her blooms with her friends and neighbors. She will be missed by all. We bid her bon voyage as she embarks on her next adventure in the universe. And perhaps along the way she'll find a chrysanthemum or two that need her tender, loving care.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/seattle-wa/masako-kubo-12469285>

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the usual dilution of (20-10-20) you've been using for mid-season plus the potash is added to harden off the stems and the petals.

### Sheltering your plants

- When the bud shows color move the plant into some sort of shelter to protect the blooms from rain, dew, wind and direct sunlight.
- It does not have to be a totally enclosed shelter but enclosed shelters prove to be of advantage in developing near perfect blooms.
- The blooms do not need direct sunlight but some filtered sunlight is desirable. I have pinned white sheets under clear roof panels. This filters the sun and additionally collects dew that collects on the panels at night.
- If you move your plants into enclosed spaces then you must also provide lots of cool dry ventilation to protect against petal rot. A fan blowing gently across the blooms is the usual solution.
- It's generally desirable to keep the daytime temperatures below 75 degrees and the night time temperatures above 50 degrees during this final bloom phase.
- If you move your plants into area where the sunlight is poor or non-existent, then you will need considerable supplemental light as discussed in the Sept. cultural notes.

### Watch for Aphids and other insects

- The Marathon systemic insecticide you added in June or July should protect you very well from Aphids; but it does not catch all insects and bugs, and if you didn't use it or used a diluted application then it's possible you could find aphids and other insects such as earwigs in your blooms.
- Earwigs have to be handpicked from the blooms and other such bugs must be caught with a watchful eye before they severely damage the bloom.
- If the blooms are dry and out of the sunlight it is possible to spray the bloom with a very fine solution of liquid insecticide such as diazinon or other mild insecticides.
- Generally you will need to spray every 4-5 days apart for 3 or 4 applications. This could in some cases destroy your blooms; but then so would the Aphids.
- If aphids are in the blooms at the show it will be downgraded, or if badly infested the bloom will be removed from the show.

## ECA 2024 Show pictures



## Getting ready for the show:

- You can speed up bloom development with supplemental heat (electric heaters) in the finishing areas.
- The suggested minimum heat in the area is 50 deg. But with supplemental heat you might approach 60 deg. minimum. Also some varieties don't particularly like too much heat.
- Reflexes like light, Incurves like heat, so it takes a lot of judgment and experimenting to tinker with the climate you have.
- Likewise if a bloom is developing too early it may be possible to slow the development by placing the plant in a cooler darker area (a basement).

## Cutting the blooms for the show:

- Water the plants the night before cutting- start cutting early in the morning. That's when the stem cells contain the most water.
- Cut the stem approximately 20 inches below the bottom of the bud, keeping the bloom support stake attached to the stem.
- Cut at a slant and immediately put the stem in a bucket of water. (Lower leaves on the stem should have been removed leaving 3- 5 leaves at the base of the bloom).
- Then recut the stem approximately 1 inch above the previous cut while under water. This removes air bubbles that cling to the end of the stem and impede water uptake.
- Let the cut stem remain in the water for a few seconds, and then remove to a vase or water bucket for transportation to the show.
- Cut the incurves 3-4 days before judging day. The centers will develop much faster in a vase or bucket of mildly warm water (100 deg for example) than they will on the plant.
- Most others I cut 1-2 days before judging. Following these procedures the cut bloom will hold up well for 1-2 weeks. The key is the second cutting under water.
- When you do the final arrangement of your bloom(s) you should make the final cut to 18 inches.
- Where multiple blooms are required in entry, you should work at cutting the stems slightly below the support so that the stems can be individually trimmed to present the top of each bloom at the same height
- In multiple bloom entries of 3 or 5 blooms per vase, variations to the same height rule are allowed/ preferred such that the back blooms are somewhat higher than the forward blooms.

## ECA 2024 Show pictures

