

Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association

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Presidents Message

Our September meeting is on September 13th in the lower green house at Volunteer Park Conservatory from 10 am to noon.

Fall is just around the corner. The days are getting shorter and cooler and the nights are getting longer. Hopefully all of the effort you've put into your plants these past 8 months is starting to show! At our house the chrysanthemums are starting to show color! Thus begins another busy period for us - supporting the final growth stage - bloom development! In addition to watering, fertilizing, staking, pest and fungal control, sheltering, lighting, ventilation and temperature control are the new topics for this month's cultural discussion

In addition to a cultural discussion about bloom development, we will discuss the various ways you can enter blooms into our fall show;

Again we hope to see you all at our September 13th meeting in the lower greenhouse at Volunteer Park Conservatory at 10 am

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

Many hands make light work. Please plan to attend this meeting - learn how to enter blooms in the show and learn how you might volunteer to make this show a success.

ECA ANNUAL PICNIC

Thank you to all who were able to attend our 2025 annual picnic. It was held at the Kubota Gardens on Saturday, August 9th. We had about 20 ECA participants. What a beautiful garden/park with an amazing history and bright future. The day was perfect and I believe that everyone had an enjoyable afternoon. I've included several picnic photos for your enjoyment.

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, September 13

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

Saturday, October 12

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

Friday, October 31 – Sunday, November 2

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

Saturday, November 15
ECA Annual Awards
Banquet

September Cultural Notes

Protect the blooms from rain, wind and Dew –

- Shelter the plants when the buds have broken the membrane and petal tips start showing.
- Plants should remain protected and sheltered through the final bloom development.
- Sheltering your plant also provides opportunity for temperature and ventilation control.
- For proper bloom development both watering and fertilization programs must be modified to half strength fertilizer and less water.
- Lastly, continue pest and fungus management programs throughout the bloom development.

Housing/Sheltering

Sheltering your plants is necessary throughout the bloom cycle.

- Shelters come in a variety of sizes, names and shapes including porches, large overhanging eaves, garages, car ports, green houses or temporary wood /plastic structures.
- Basic requirements are: shelter from rain, dew, & winds; adequate daytime light or light supplements, temperature control, and ventilation.

The ideal daytime finishing temperature is between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit with a night time temperature in the 40's. Maximum temperature should be kept below 80 Deg. Above that temperature the probability of bloom damage due to petal rot is high.

- If the shelter is exposed directly to the sun in early September the temperature within can skyrocket. Big fans can be used to increase ventilation and keep the temperature and moisture levels down. The fans also hopefully can bring in air from the shady side of the shelter to cool the overall area.

Lighting:

- Chrysanthemums require less daylight during the bloom cycle. In most cases supplemental light is necessary where you have sheltered the plants as the opening blooms generally cannot accept full sunlight through clear plastic or glass.
- Hanging supplemental lighting like 4' to 8' florescent light fixtures works well to control lighting.
- We recommend running your supplemental lights 8-10 hours during the day.
- Lining the inside of the shelter roof with old sheets or muslin will also reduce the heat and filter the sunlight and at the



Feature Cultivar

Duke of Kent

Description – White Irregular

English Classification – Large Exhibition (1)

Plant Height – 4 feet

Disbud size – 8 inches diameter

The Duke of Kent varietal was raised by T.W. Pocket of Australia in 1938. Duke of Kent is one of the oldest heirloom mums in our club. The Duke family cultivars include Duke of Kent (1938), Pink Duke (1978), Yellow Duke (1947) and Cream Duke (1948).

Ivor Mace takes a root cutting of this variety in January pinches it twice - 3/21 and 5/15

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

same time the sheets tend to absorb the early morning dew that tends to collect in the cool mornings.

- In general reflexing varieties like it light and cool while Incurves usually like it warmer and less light. Use this information to decide how your plants will be organized in your finishing space. Continue staking the laterals you want to keep and culling those that you don't want.

Bringing the plants into cover

Around Labor day, when the buds are starting to break the membrane, shelter them.

- Clean the dirt off the bottom of the pots.
- Clip off the excess roots that are hanging out the drain holes and remove all the old and damaged leaves – they harbor pests and fungi.
- Spray the plant (not the bloom) with both a good fungicide and insecticide.
- Watch for and destroy Earwigs, worms, caterpillars etc.
- Top-dress the pots for one last time. Add about ½ to ¾ in. of your 9" mix or some compost to the pot surface and level it. Top-Dressing the plants helps finishing the plants now and also promotes new growth for next year's cuttings.
- Cut off (not tear out) all developing basil shoots.
- If your pot has significant moss growth, add ½ tsp of Hydrated lime to the top dress mix to help sweeten the soil.
- For colored blooms (not white or yellow), you may add ¼ tsp of Ferrous sulfate ($Fe_2 So_4$) to enhance the color. In particular The Athabasca needs this Fe_2, So_4 to show a significant ring of pink tips on its blossom. Pinks in general look more intense if we feed it. Additionally, if you have not started feeding potash in your fertilizer formula (see Aug. Newsletter) then add ¼ to ½ tsp Sulphate of potash to the top mix to harden off the plant and keep the bloom petals from being too soft.

Staking and bud support:

- Start cutting back to your final selection of laterals.
- Securely stake all the selected laterals and attach the bloom support shingles under the bloom
- As the neck stretches, keep moving the support shingle up under the bloom.
- Use support shingle to straighten the neck and keep the bloom flat atop the stem
Lastly, continue to remove all side laterals.

ECA 2025 picnic at Kubota Gardens



Supplies Available at the meeting:

M&R Mix
Mid-Season Fertilizer
Late Season Fertilizer
Twist Ties
Bloom Support stakes
B9
Bonide Systemic

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Fertilizing and Watering:

- For the bloom cycle, immediately after taking the bud, reduce the fertilizer to $\frac{1}{2}$ and switch to a different fertilizer formulation that is higher in Potash.
- Basically mix $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of our basic 20-10-20 fertilizer with $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp of Sulphate of Potash per gallon of water.
- It's easy to over-feed the plant at this time, and produce ragged, cocked, or deformed blooms; so fertilize sparingly.
- Watering is also different at this stage.
- Water more sparing using about 1 pint per watering and do not water when the temperature is over 75 deg.
- Water /fertilize from a bucket using a 1-pint jar or similar small container. Do not use a hose and scatter water everywhere on the shelter floor. Keep the finishing area dry and clean. A wet finish area can promote fungus.

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