

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Moderators: Charlie Wilton
Dick Schloss

Q. What class varieties should be used as pot plants?

Skou: During the high light intensity seasons use the 8-9-10 week varieties and during the low light times use the 10 and 11 week varieties.

Q. Is it practical to grow 2 crops of mums from the same plant?

Langhans: This practice has been tried by a number of growers, but they find it rather expensive. The second crop always takes a long time to come back and has a tendency to be rather poor quality.

Q. Is there anything that can be done to prevent the distortion of the flower that was exhibited last summer, especially on Indianapolis?

Andreasen: This was caused by the extremely warm temperatures. The problem is that when you pull the cloth, you actually trap the heat of the day, and the temperature around the mums remains high. The answer to this is to remove the cloth when it gets dark to cool the plants and put it back on again before dawn. This may be an expensive process, but so is a loss of the crop expensive. There have been some reports from California of a two-toned plastic cloth, that is white on the outside to reflect the heat and black inside to provide the shade. We haven't tried any, but the plastic may be more of a heat trap than the cloth.

Dimock: Dr. Brierley of Beltsville recently reported that some of the blossom distortion on Indianapolis in the mid-west was due to a virus called "flower distortion" recently introduced from Europe.

Q. What is the short disbud schedule now being used?

Jake Miller: We are using a 6 x 6 spacing; let 3 breaks

come in the summer and 2 breaks in the winter. With the disbuds we follow the mum schedule, but pinch on a no pinch schedule; that is, pinch one week after planting and shade on the regular date. This gives about 3 crops a year.

Q. What is the production and quality of the short disbuds?

Jake Miller: With standards the disbuds will produce 8 3-inch flowers per square foot on 10-inch less stem as compared to 5 4-inch flowers with standards.

Q. What is a good fungicidal spray for outdoor mums?

Dimock: When the plants are small and up to 16 to 18 inches tall, spray with ferbam (Fermate, etc.) at the rate of 1 lb./100 gal. When color is showing and botrytis is a problem, use frequent applications of Zineb (Parzate, Dithane Z78) or captan at 1/2#/100 gals. finely misted over the blossoms.

Q. When is the best time of the day to spray in winter?

Dimock: With Fermate it probably makes no difference. With zineb (Parzate), slight injury develops and increases with the length of time the leaves are wet; hence, morning applications are safer. Avoid very bright hot days.

Grower: We use a Dithane Z78 dust (about 6%) for Botrytis control on the blossoms. It seems to be fully as effective as the spray and is much quicker and easier to apply and the residue shakes off when the blooms are being cut and carried in.

Q. Can Vapam or Nemagon be used with clay or sandy soils?

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Williamson: Vapam is used in Florida and Long Island. It is most effective against weed seeds and nematodes, but is not quite so good as a fungicide. It is used as a drench and should be covered with a cloth. The soil can be used after 10 days. Methyl bromide is good fumigant against weed seeds, insects, nematodes and fungi. It is perhaps one of the best chemicals so far developed for sterilization.

Q. Is the soil temperature important with chemical soil sterilization?

Williamson: Yes, 50^oF is the minimum temperature for methyl bromide, 60 to 65^oF for chloropicrin, and higher temperatures give better results.

Q. What is the dosage of Systox that should be used on mums? Can it be used out-of-doors as well?

Naegele: The recommended dosage is 1 pt. /1000 sq. ft. of the 21-23% Systox. Some growers apply it at 1/2 dosage 10 days apart. Systox has been used out-of-doors, but if the land is to be used for growing vegetables, it shouldn't be used.

Q. Will Systox kill thrips and tarnish plant bug?

Naegele: No, malathion will control tarnish plant bug and thrips.

Q. What is the best control for symphylids?

Naegele: Lindane, at the rate of 6 oz. of 25% Lindane wettable powder per 1,000 sq. ft. and watered in.