

## Suggestions for Handling Stock Plants of Geranium

1. Select the best plants, true to type, and set aside in separate area.
2. Keep all flowers picked off. Flowers taken in the early stages heal rapidly. It is a good precaution to spray with Zineb,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoons per gallon, after taking flower off the plant. Development of flowers suppresses vegetative growth. Do not allow stock plant to root into the bench.
3. All bench areas should be thoroughly sterilized before placing stock plants on them.
4. Pinch to develop well branched plant. Soft pinch program will give the better breaks.
5. Fertilize every 10 days with 12-12-12 or 20-20-20 (2 pounds to 100 gallons) or as needed to maintain good growth. Avoid excessive succulent growth.
6. Keep plants well watered. Do not let them get too dry to develop hard tissue. Such plants produce cuttings that root poorly.
7. Keep stock plants continuously covered with either ferbam ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds to 100 gallons) or zineb ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds to 100 gallons) to keep rhizoctonia to a minimum.
8. Rogue out any stock plant showing off-color for such plants may have mosaic or crinkles.

9. Keep plants as cool as possible. Apply temporary shade only in extreme hot weather.