

# THE MUM CHRONICLE

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD DOMINION CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

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Rosemary Smith, Camilla Ng, Co-Presidents  
Dorothy Pines, Editor

ODCS website: [www.odcsmums.club](http://www.odcsmums.club)

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## Events Box:

**Due to the current Pandemic situation, the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society is canceling the monthly meeting until further notice.**

Featured in this newsletter is information on Informal Show, shading and Fukusuke.

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The extraordinary year 2020 continues to be challenging as the Coronavirus remains uncontrolled nationwide. While Northern Virginia has begun to reopen some businesses, we must still be cautious in our activities.

ODCS normally hosts an annual judged Chrysanthemum Show in October. Earlier this year, we had originally planned to have the show at Merrifield Gardens. In-light-of the on-going health crisis, the ODCS Board has decided that we will not have a judged Chrysanthemum Show this year. We took into consideration the following factors: the uncertainty of the coronavirus and the safety and comfort of our members, the cancellation of the ODCS monthly educational meetings, the continuous health advisory on indoors social activities with group interactions, and the uncertainty of the participation of Maryland growers in the show. It was not an easy decision but one that was made in everyone's best interest.

However, all is not lost. The ODCS Board voted to have an informal outdoor show for members only at Galen Goss' home in Burke. This would provide an opportunity for ODCS members to show their potted plants or cut blooms and have an informal discussion. The informal outdoor show will be on the original planned show date, October 24<sup>th</sup>, with the rain date on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

In lieu of our customary annual banquet in November, we will have a catered meal with appropriate social distancing for members at the outdoor show. This eliminates the issue of dining indoors at a restaurant. We will also hold the election for Board members for 2021 then. The informal show allows our members to have a get together to discuss our

growing experience this year, enjoy one another and have a picnic meal. We request all members to wear masks and practice social distancing. We look forward to seeing you then.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Please save the date**

October 24<sup>th</sup> ODCS Informal Mum Show. Rain date October 25<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow in September.

## **SHADING**

To encourage blooms by the ODCS Show date October 24<sup>th</sup>, shading the chrysanthemums is recommended according to the plant's Week Response. The Week Response of your chrysanthemums is listed on the ODCS 2020 Members Plant Order Form.

Twelve-week response groups – start shading August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Eleven-week response groups – start shading August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ten-week response groups - start shading August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Nine-week response groups – start shading August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The termination of the shading will be some time in September when the number of daylight hours is less than 13.5. Generally, shading should continue until the buds are the size of a pea.

For more information on shading, see Chapter Eleven “Why Shade and How” in the Beginner's Handbook for New Growers of Chrysanthemum, and Chapter Seven “Shading and Lighting” in the Advanced Grower's Handbook.

## **FUKUSUKE**

Fukusuke (pronounced Foo Koo Ska), is a Japanese method of dwarf chrysanthemum culture. Fukusuke means a large-headed dwarf doll. The Fukusuke chrysanthemum has a large inflorescence of eight inches or more in diameter, and a stem that has been shortened by a growth retardant, B-9.

The advantages of growing dwarf plants are many compared to growing conventional blooms. One can grow many pots of mums in a limited space, on a bench, no physical strain, and the ease of transporting to shows.

To produce dwarf plants, choose cultivars that are naturally short growing. Skirted cultivars, Spiders, Anemones and Incurves are all suitable for Fukusukes. The objective is to produce one fully developed bloom in a 6-inch pot. The bloom should sit squarely on the plant, have a straight stem and healthy foliage. The leaves should be evenly spaced, and a height from the bottom of the pot to the center of the calyx of the bloom be 16 inches.

Growth Retardant B-9 is applied as a foliar spray to new growth from pinch are one to two inches long, in early August, at 0.25% solution of B-9.(Robert Howell) Apply another application a week later and a final application a week after that, total three applications a week apart.

If you like to purchase B-9, ODCS has it available to members for \$6.50/oz. Please contact Normandie Atkins at 703-560-9032.



Photos by Ed Mascali. 2007 National Chrysanthemum Society Show. Fokusukes by Robert Howell.

For further reading, please see the articles “Fokusukes – Aren’t They Charming” by Robert Howell, 2007, and “Selecting and Using Plant Growth Regulators on Floricultural Crops” by Virginia Cooperative Extension, attached with the newsletter.



## **FERTILIZE**

Chrysanthemums grow rapidly during the summer and early fall. This rapid growth requires nutrients to sustain the plant tissues. Continue to apply a balanced liquid fertilizer such as 20-20-20 weekly. Apply to moist soil and preferably during full sunlight.

## **INSECT CONTROL**

In the July ODCS Newsletter, we have covered the organic approach with horticultural and insecticidal soap for insect control. In the attachments of the July Newsletter were also information on other insecticides. If you find that the organic approach is ineffective, stronger insecticide might be needed. Members of ODCS have used Marathon successfully in getting rid nuisance such as spider mites, thrips and leaf miners. Apply half teaspoon of Marathon to each plant container. Only one application is needed. Marathon is a systemic that is effective and long acting for chewing insects.

Ed Mascali is available to answer questions you may have on growing mums. You may email your questions to Ed Mascali at [emascali1@yahoo.com](mailto:emascali1@yahoo.com). Please include your phone numbers in your email to Ed, so he could answer your questions over the phone.

## GROWER'S HANDBOOKS

Everything you want to know about mums but afraid to ask? Galen Goss has copies of the *Beginner's Handbook* (\$10), the *Advanced Handbook* (\$10) and *Mums the Word* book by Pat Stockett Johnston (\$15) for sale. These are very handy informational books, valuable for new and experienced growers. Please contact Galen at [gossg@verizon.net](mailto:gossg@verizon.net).



### EDITOR'S MUSING

The mums have had their last pinch about two weeks ago and have grown back all the lost heights. I am on a frequent neem oil and fertilizer schedule but so far I have not seen any pests. Hopefully that will continue to be the case. I am excited about the potential, and though it is still early, it appears I may get the opportunity to shade in a couple of weeks.