

THE MUM CHRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD DOMINION CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

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

ODCS website: 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 final potting, pinching and insect control.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We hope everyone is doing well and their chrysanthemums are continuing to grow. Hopefully they will be ready for pinching soon. More on that in the newsletter. Thankfully we are not affected by the massive Sahara desert dust plume which made its way to parts of the South and Southeast U.S. Everyone enjoys celebrating the 4th of July and watch fireworks at home. Please be safe and have a wonderful holiday!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please save the date

October 24th and 25th ODCS Mum Show.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to say 謝謝 (xie xie), thank you to Doris Shen, for her generous donation of \$102 to the ODCS! Doris has been a member of ODCS for 5 years. She is an accomplished grower and floral designer. Doris won 11 blue ribbons at the 2019 ODCS Chrysanthemum Show. Of the blue ribbons she won, two were awarded for best in group, and one was those was best in section. Doris is also very gracious in helping new members to learn to grow mums. She is a credit to ODCS.

FINAL POT UP and PINCHING

When your chrysanthemum's roots reach the sides of the 6-inch pot, it is ready to pot up to 10" or 12" pot. This is the final potting up. Follow the same potting practice as for the young mums, with loose well drained potting medium and sterilized pots.

The large flowering types mums should be disbudded to allow only a specific number of blooms per plant. For example, if 4 blooms are wanted, only 2 of the sturdiest side shoots should be allowed to grow from the first pinch, and 2 from each of these shoots after the second pinch, giving a total of 4 stems. All side branches should be removed from these 4 stems until blooming time.

All disbud cultivars should be given the final pinch between July 15th and 31st. Check the King's Mums catalog for the bloom dates of your mums. Pinch the early blooming varieties no later than July 15th. The later blooming varieties may be pinched towards late July to early August.

If you want shorter plants, King's Mums recommends a severe final cutting back to 6 or 8 inches from the ground as late as the end of July. Leave some green leaves below the cut point, and from these leaves will come new branches which will grow to two or three feet by bloom time.

Most mums are tall growers that require staking. Start staking when mums are about 12 inches tall.

INSECT CONTROL

Horticultural or insecticidal soap can be readily made with items commonly found at home. It is an environmentally friendly application used to get rid of soft bodied insects such as aphids, whiteflies, spider mites and mealybugs. It does not harm beneficial insects, and non-toxic to animals and birds, leaves no residue, and can be used on vegetables.

Insecticidal soap recipe:

Mix 1 Tablespoon liquid pure soap to 1 cup vegetable oil

Use two teaspoons of this oil-soap to a cup of warm water. Spray top and undersides of leaves in morning or late afternoon. Avoid spraying plants on hot sunny day if temperatures are over 90F.

Neem oil soap recipe:

Mix 1 teaspoon of neem oil and ½ teaspoon of liquid pure soap to 1 quart of water. Shake well and spray generously.

While we do not promote any commercial brand insecticide, here are solutions to some of your insect problems.

Bonide Bugs Quick Guide. <https://www.bonide.com/problem-solver/bugs-quick-guide/>

Please also see BioWorks Disease and Insects Management information attached to this newsletter.

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. 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 goss@verizon.net.



EDITOR'S MUSING

The mums are growing. I checked for insects and did not find any damage. I sprayed with a neem oil product to start the routine. I would prefer not to wait until damage is evident on the plants. I am starting the spray process now and intend to keep track so I spray every other week. I will hard pinch at the end of the week using the instructions above. Everyone stay safe!