

THE MUM CHRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD DOMINION CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

Camilla Ng, President

Dorothy Pines, Editor ODCS website: www.odcsmums.club

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Events Box: Next Zoom Meeting August 14th, 2:00 p.m.

Featured in this newsletter is information on the 47th Chrysanthemum Show, shading and growing guide.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ODCS members,

I am happy to announce that we have a venue for our 47th Chrysanthemum Show. It will be held at the James Lee Community Center (JLCC) in Falls Church. The Director of James Lee Community Center very kindly not only offers us the use of the spacious Monroe Gym, but also opens the Center on Sunday October 30th specifically for our event. The Center normally does not have operation hours on Sunday. This is indeed good fortune for ODCS since Merrifield Garden Center, the venue where we have held many shows, is not renting the space. The gracious community spirit of JLCC is deeply appreciated.

Please mark your calendar and save the dates, Saturday and Sunday, October 29th and 30th for the Chrysanthemum Show. Bloom entries will be accepted on the afternoon of Friday, October 28th. As this will be our first Show since 2019, we hope many of our members will participate in the show to share the beauty of the blooms. Stay tuned.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Sunday, August 14th, 2:00 p.m. The topics will be shading and sprays. Shading practice usually begins by the second week in August for some cultivars. This is a timely topic and should not be missed. To encourage more growers to grow sprays, we will review what makes a spray. Please save the date and join us.

“Man proposes and God disposes.” Our July picnic in the park was canceled due to inclement weather. It is understandable the disappointment caused by the damping

rain. However, if anyone wishes to organize a picnic or an ice cream social this summer, it would be most welcomed by our members. Just email me with your plans.

SHOW PLANS

By Galen Goss, General Show Chairman

As Camilla said in her President's message, we are having a show this year. YEA!!! Here are some more details and dates:

Friday, October 28, 2022

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Horticulture and Design entries accepted

Saturday, October 29, 2022

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Horticulture and Design entries accepted

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Judges and Clerks briefing

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Judging

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Show open to the public

Sunday, October 30, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Show open to the public

1:30 p.m. Awards ceremony

2:00 p.m. Show closes - show dismantled

There are many tasks and jobs required to plan and put on a mum show. Ed Mascali will be inviting judges and then working with them to judge our blooms.

What/Who else is needed:

1. We need volunteers to get our tubes, blocks, table coverings, and other materials from the shed at Tim Moore's house to the show site on Friday morning (and then return them on Sunday afternoon). If you have an SUV or a pick-up truck, I would love to hear from you.
2. We are going to need several people to help set up the tables at the JLCC on Friday late morning. The center is providing tables, but not the workers to set them up in the gym.
3. We will need members to serve as clerks during judging. Clerks assist the judges. You do not need to know anything about judging and it is a terrific way to learn what the judges look for when assessing each entry. Clerks put the designated ribbon on the entry card after the judges decide on the award.

4. I need someone to assist me at the “Classification/Passing” table. Each entry must be checked to see if the entry card is complete (we will have a demonstration on entry cards at an upcoming Zoom meeting). We check the card for accuracy and then stamp the entry card as “Passed.” Then someone places the entry on the appropriate show table (we need folks to do this task also). I want to train someone to do the “Classification” task for the future. It is not difficult, and you learn the various cultivars and the rules about entries. I started doing it many years before I was even entering disbudded blooms.

There are additional tasks and other details that will be sharing in upcoming newsletters and emails. If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, please contact me as soon as possible. A show is more than just the blooms on the tables. It is all the work and workers that help make it a wonderful experience for the exhibitors as well as the public. I can be reached at galen.goss@mums.org or at 703-978-7981. I look forward to hearing from you.

AUGUST BIRTHDAY

We wish Alice Buch a Happy Birthday. Alice has been a chrysanthemum grower and a member of ODCS for nineteen years. She helps the chapter by reviewing the financial records annually and compiling the supply orders from members. We thank her for her continuous service for the club.

YOUNG GARDENER PROJECT

by Camilla Ng

The July coaching sessions were held at the Young Gardeners’ home bases, their driveways. Galen and I took turns explaining the reasons for pinching and the difference in fertilizer formulas. We demonstrated how to pinch the different types of mums and staking the stems for the disbuds. We used our own plants to demonstrate the pinching and staking. The Young Gardeners then worked on their own plants, all hands on. It is a joy to see their enthusiasm in learning to grow mums.



Two of our Young Gardeners:
Left, Hudson Kundu, snipping off bracts from his Garden mum. Right, Sophie Lin potting up.
Photos by Camilla Ng.



SHADING by Camilla Ng

Chrysanthemum is a short-day plant. A short day is one having 12 hours or less of daylight. This length of day will initiate a flower bud. Chrysanthemum cultivars are classified by the response group into which they fall. The Week Response of your chrysanthemums is listed on the ODCS 2022 Members Plant Order Form. The King's Mums catalog also provides the bloom periods of the cultivars. In order to encourage blooms by the ODCS Show date of October 29th, 2022, shading the chrysanthemums is recommended according to the plant's Week Response.

We find the starting date to shade by counting back from the show date. Three or four days should be added for insurance. For example, a 10-week cultivar will require a count back of 70 days from October 29th, which would be August 20th. Add 3 or 4 days would be August 16th or 17th.

12-week response groups – start shading by August 6th (optimal by August 2nd)
11-week response group – start shading by August 13th (optimal by August 9th)
10-week response group – start shading by August 20th (optimal by August 16th)
9-week response group – start shading by August 27th (optimal by August 23rd)

Shading can be accomplished by using a black cloth with high thread count or black polyethylene. Shading is required for the evening and early morning to provide the necessary hours of uninterrupted darkness. The covering may be put in place as early as 5 or 6 p.m. and removed at 7 a.m. the next morning. When the temperature is near 90 degrees Fahrenheit, the covering may be delayed until 7 p.m. High night temperature and failure to apply shading each evening will result in a delayed bloom date. The nightly 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*.

MARATHON APPLICATION

by Ed Mascali

Application: ½ teaspoon of Marathon to a 10-inch pot. To assure optimum effectiveness, the Marathon granules must be incorporated into the top of the soil. This allows the roots of the plant to absorb the pesticide when the plant is watered. I use a plastic fork and work the Marathon granules in just below the soil surface.

The pot must be well watered, and the top of the soil must be damp. Do not apply Marathon if the potting soil is water-logged. If the pot soil is already water-logged, the pesticide will not be able to penetrate the root zone of the plant. Do not over-irrigate or allow excessive runoff to occur following an application. Wait until the plant wilts before adding a small amount of water for two or three weeks after applying Marathon.

GUIDE TO GROWING MUMS

August 1- 15

If you have been negligent in your feeding program, it is not too late. From now until color shows is the rapid vegetative growing time and frequent feedings should be given. For flower beds, top dress with 2 lbs. of a good fertilizer to 100 square feet at monthly intervals or 1 lb. at a two-week interval. For pot culture, continue to apply 22-5-16 water soluble fertilizer, a cup every week.

August 15 – 31

At this time of the season, bugs are more vigorous and plentiful. If you have not been following a spraying schedule at 10-to 14-day intervals, you should start now

to prevent irreparable damage. Continue pruning, fertilizing, staking, and tying. By pruning, we mean the removal of all unwanted growth. Do this weekly, if possible. For bud setting, apply 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer, a cup every week.

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.

ODCS METAL TRAYS AVAILABLE

The ODCS Board approved the sale of up to 50 of the metal trays that we use for potting and sales. We have many more in the shed than we use. The trays are made of heavy gauge galvanized steel. They are practically indestructible and do not rust. They are great for holding small pots during the early growing season. Some members use them for rooting their cuttings. They have drainage holes. Each tray measures 21 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 2 1/2 inches deep. The cost is \$10.00 per tray.



If you are interested in purchasing trays, please contact Galen to make arrangements for pickup and payment. Phone: 703-978-7981 or galen.goss@mums.org.

NEW NCS WEBSITE

NCS has a newly designed website. The address remains www.mums.org. Please check it out. It has new features and improved old features. We are still building it (the photo gallery, in particular) so if you have any suggestions for the site, please let Galen and Anette Lloyd (the NCS Social Committee co-chairs) know.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please save the dates for upcoming chapter Zoom meetings and activities:

- August 14th, Shading and Growing Sprays.
- September 11th, “September/October Tasks”, Pat Stockett Johnston video

- October 29th – 30th, ODCS Mums Show, James Lee Community Center
- November 13th, Annual Meeting/Brunch - TBA

NCS T-SHIRTS AND CAPS

Galen has a supply of “Mums the Word” T-shirts (recently reduced to \$15, XXL \$18) and ball caps (also reduced to \$15) for sale, no shipping cost. You can see the items at the NCS website: <https://mums.org/shop/>. If you like to get one of these NCS products, please contact Galen at galen.goss@mums.org.

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 Grower’s Handbook* (\$10), *Mums the Word* by Pat Stockett Johnston (\$15), and the 2021 *Classification Handbook and Appendix* (\$15) for sale. These are very handy informational books, valuable for new and experienced growers. Please contact Galen at galen.goss@mums.org.

Those who are interested in keeping this season’s mums as stock plants, the NCS booklet *Care of Stock Plants - Rooting Cuttings, 2021 Edition* (\$7) can be ordered through NCS’s website <https://mums.org/shop/>. NCS accepts PayPal for your convenience. Galen has this one also. You can save the shipping and handling charge by contacting Galen directly.

EDITOR’S MUSING

The remaining plants are surviving and appear to be healthy but need water more frequently. I am still on the spray schedule, checking for signs of pests. The struggling plant has been destroyed. Hopefully, the remaining plants will remain healthy.