

## **CULTURAL INFORMATION**

### **CUT MUMS**

#### ***Soil***

Chrysanthemums prefer porous and fertile soil that should be steam sterilized at least once per year. Once or twice a year, you will need to top dress the soil and work this in. Alternatively, the stubs of the harvested crop can be ploughed in the soil at the time of bed preparation, or add manure to the soil.

#### ***Planting***

Cuttings should be rooted in plug trays before planting in the flowerbeds. After planting, water in thoroughly to prevent the root ball from drying out. In the winter, the plant density should be between 4 and 5 per square foot depending on the variety. In summer, this density should increase to between 5 and 7 plants per square foot.

#### ***Irrigation***

Chrysanthemums need sufficient and regular watering. Avoid drying, as this will lead to uneven growth and quality issues. As soon as the first new roots start to develop in the soil, approximately 6 days after planting, you'll need to start with a weekly fertilizer application. Concentrations will depend on soil analysis.

#### ***Fertilization***

During the first 6 weeks after planting you should feed with 300-350 ppm N. If needed you can use slow release fertilizers.

#### ***Temperature***

Most chrysanthemum varieties require a minimum temperature of approx. 60°F for flower bud development. The night temperature is more important than the day temperature. Some of the more cold tolerant varieties will perform well with lower night temperatures around 50°F. The most critical period is between, 1 week prior to the start of short day treatment, until 3 weeks after. Lower night

temperatures can lead to considerable delays in flowering and decrease in quality. Delays of 10 to 14 days are not unusual.

### ***Lighting***

To reach the required stem length most varieties need about 6 weeks of long day treatment after planting of the rooted cuttings. The start of short day treatment depends on the season, variety and final specifications of the crop. Most of our varieties have a response time between 7 and 9 weeks after the start of short day treatment.

### ***PGR's***

Especially, in the winter and fall some varieties have a tendency to stretch, what might result in long peduncles or thin stems. To prevent this, the plants can be treated with one or more applications of B-Nine (1500-2500 ppm) at different growth stages.

### ***Plant Support***

We recommend using a wired grid (plastic or metal) over each planting bed to support the plants. Raise this grid periodically, as the plants grow taller. Each mesh needs to be fixed at the ends of the bed, and supported every 10 feet.

### ***Brief information for natural season growing***

- If you grow without heating in zones 7 and lower, you need to plant in early-mid June and preferably under high plastic tunnels that can be closed.
- The planting distance can be up to 12" X 12". The soil conditions are not very important and for the first 6 weeks, you will need to fertilize heavily with 300-350 ppm or use Controlled Release Fertilizers.
- Pinching is not necessary
- If you can blackcloth, do this for at least 3 weeks starting mid-July. This will result in flowering from mid-September through October.
- If you choose not to blackcloth, you can expect flowering in late October and early November. For some growers this might be too late in the season.