



Greenhouse Pest Message, June 8, 2023
Leanne Pundt UConn Extension

After a very busy May, everyone is busy gearing up for their summer programs. Fortunately, many retailers are still busy, so continue to feed your spring ornamental bedding plants to keep them attractive and saleable.

If possible, feed with every watering at a low rate of between 50 to 100 ppm of a neutral fertilizer with low phosphorous to prevent nutrient deficiencies. If this is not possible because staff are so busy or you do not have enough injectors, feed at a higher rate (150 to 200 ppm) once a week when the weather cooperates.

Cool June Nights and Garden Mums



Figure 1 & 2: Young garden mums plugs. Photos by L. Pundt

Garden mums are short day (or long night) plants but they are also thermo-periodic, meaning they will be induced into flower when night temperatures are too cool, regardless of the day length.

Night temperatures consistently below 60 F will cause the mum plants to set buds and flower, stalling initial growth resulting in shorter than desired plants.

Avoid moving the garden mums outside when the night temperatures are consistently below 60 F for several nights, as this will promote premature crown budding when the photoperiods are still marginally long.

Plant in the greenhouse, where you can keep the night temperatures above 60 F. (If this is too labor intensive, consider the use of Florel, mentioned below).

Many growers are starting their mum crops later to avoid this issue with the

cooler June nights.

If crown buds appear after transplant, keep plants well fed. Many of the newer varieties have vigorous basal branching which helps overgrow the crown buds if the plants are well fed.

Mums are heavy feeders during their first few weeks. To promote early growth, use a 20-10-20 or 20-20-20 fertilizer during the first two to three weeks of production. Rates will depend upon whether you are just using water soluble

fertilizer or whether you are using a combination of both water soluble and controlled-release fertilizers. This approach gives you the most flexibility to adjust your program as needed. The additional of slow release fertilizer also helps protect your garden mums against leaching during heavy rain events.

For more see, Feed Me, Seymour, A Modern Guide to Garden Mum Nutrition
<https://www.growertalks.com/Article/?articleid=24220>

The plant growth regulator Florel, can also be a tool to use when there is a medium to high risk of premature budding. (Florel treatments after July 4, will most likely delay the natural season bloom date).

Garden Mums and Florel

<https://www.growertalks.com/Article/?articleid=23088>

Garden Mums Get Them Off to a Good Start

<https://www.griffins.com/garden-mums-get-them-off-to-a-great-start>

Do not stress young plants during their first 4 to 5 weeks of growth or plants will develop buds prematurely. Keep plants moist, well fertilized, and properly spaced.

How to Prevent Premature Flowering in Garden Mums

<https://www.greenhousecanada.com/how-to-prevent-premature-flowering-in-garden-mums/>

National Pollinator Week is June 19- 23, 2023.

AmericanHort and the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) have organized a series of webinars to address this important issue with excellent speakers and topics. Click [HERE](#) to find out more and register for the webinars. Registration is free.

Diagnosis and Management of Plant Diseases in Ornamental Greenhouses Workshop

**Thursday, June 29th, 2023 at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in
New Haven, CT**

Online Registration is now open!

Registration: \$40 per person. Registration includes boxed lunch and five pesticide recertification credits for Connecticut and New England states.

Online registration only at [Greenhouse Training Store](#).
See [Workshop](#)

Registration will end at 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 22, 2023**.

If you have questions about the registration, please contact Carla Caballero at carla.caballero@uconn.edu

Featured Speakers include Margery Daughtrey, Cornell University, Rosa Raudales, UConn, Emma Lookabaugh, BASF, and Yonghao Li, & Felicia Millett CT Agricultural Experiment Station.

Funding provided by USDA NIFA CPPM grant 2021-70006-35582.

Disclaimer

The information in this document is for educational purposes only. The recommendations contained are based on the best available knowledge at the time of publication. Any reference to commercial products, trade or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended. UConn Extension does not guarantee or warrant the standard of any product referenced or imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which also may be available. The University of Connecticut, UConn Extension, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.