



Greenhouse Pest Message, June 6, 2024

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Early season care of garden mums



- Use a moistened soil when potting up your young mum plants, and then water-in newly planted cuttings with a fertilizer solution to get your garden mums off to a good start.
- Mums are heavy feeders during their first few weeks. Some growers use a 100% water soluble fertilizer whereas other growers use 100% controlled-release fertilizer. Often, growers will use a combination of both water soluble and controlled-release fertilizers.
- If using controlled-release fertilizer, the rate of release is affected by its formulation (rate of release), growing media temperatures and frequency of irrigation. Most formulations release at temperatures of 70°F or above, therefore during cool temperatures, fertilizer may be slow to release. We often have cool night temperatures in June when plants need the most fertilizer. This is the reason supplementing with liquid feed becomes important, to create vegetative growth and prevent premature budding.
- 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 in a clean, level weed free production area.

For more see: **Growing Garden Mums for Fall Sales**

<https://ag.umass.edu/fact-sheets/growing-garden-mums-for-fall-sales>

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