

Growing Garden Mums

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Henning's Farm and Greenhouse

- **Purchased Moolenaar Farm & Greenhouse in 1987**
- **Grew up in family greenhouse and florist business**

Growth Factors

- **Growing mums in containers**
 - Cleaner
 - Lighter
 - Easier to water
 - No shock after digging

Growth Factors, cont.

- **Forcing them into bloom early**
 - Having color when no one else has
- **Preselling**
 - Enables you to plan large increases without speculation

Receiving Cuttings

- **Plant in 32-cell flats**
- **Reasons for using flats:**
 - Busy shipping Spring crop
 - Evening temps still cool which can cause premature budding
 - Set up shade cloth
 - Keep mist and humidity levels up while starting new cutting
 - Easier to do first pinch on benches

First Pinch

- **Pinch 10 days after planting**
- **Leave 5 to 7 leaves on cutting**

Pot Medium

- We mix our own soil for the following reasons:
- Pre-mixed cost: \$50.00 per yard
- Mixing your own: \$15.35 per yard
400 yds soil X \$34.65 savings =
\$13,860 per year savings
\$11,000 cost of soil mixer

Quality of Medium

- 20% topsoil in mix
 - pH buffering
 - Adds extra weight
- Soil mixer act as a hopper, which feeds the soil into the potting machine quickly

Planting

- Grown in 1-1/2 gallon containers
- One cutting per pot
- 3 weeks maximum in flats
- Reasons for using potting machine:
 - Improved quality
 - Pace setter
 - Cost savings

Potting Machine

Before	After
Planting	
– 5,000 ave. per day	– 7,500 ave. per day
– 5,600 record	– 9,500 record
Labor	
– \$950 per day	– 1,100 per day
– 18 people	– 22 people
Cost	
– \$0.18 per pot	– \$0.125 per pot

Potting Machine Summary

- Total cost of machine \$6,000
- Total savings in the first year \$4,400
88,000 total plants X .05 savings per pot per day =
\$4,400 Total Savings

Watering the First Time

- Fertilizer 300 ppm
- Final check on quality

Moving in the Field

- Use 3 tractors with large trailers
- Never waiting on a trailer
- Drive on mat to where they will be spaced out

Spacing and Setting up Chapin Tubes

- Pots spaced on 18" centers
- 1 tube in the center of each pot

Irrigation

- .05036 Chapin Tubes
- Timers
- 12 volt electric solenoid valves

Benefits of Tube Irrigation

- Saves time
- Foliage never gets wet
- Improved quality
- Cost effective when compared to hand watering

Important:

Check for clogged tubes!!!!!!

Spraying

- 30 ft. boom sprayer
- Sprays 1000 mums under 1 minute
- Insect Control
 - Thrips
 - Aphids
 - Leaf Miners
 - Caterpillars

HEIGHT CONTROL

- Most commonly used growth regulator is B-nine
- First application 2 weeks after 2nd pinch
- sprayed 2500 - 5000 ppm
- additional applications made depending on year

SECOND PINCH

- breaks are 2 - 3 inches

IMPORTANT:

**PINCH WHEN READY -
DO NOT WAIT**

FORCING

- pull plastic between 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- take off around 8:00 am
- shading 5 or 6 days per week is O.K.

SHIPPING

- **Started using shipping racks 2 years ago**
- **Faster loading**
- **Load mums while truck is gone**
- **Can leave racks at first stop and pick-up on way back.**
- **20 minutes to unload and re-load carts.**