



Greenhouse TPM/IPM Weekly Report
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Central Maryland Research and Education Center

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What Happened With Chrysanthemums This Fall?

We had cool nights in August and many of the mums opened their blooms in late August and September. Unfortunately nobody seemed to be enthusiastic about buying mums during this time period. It was a bad combination of drought conditions and an ailing economy. Customer lack of willingness to spend money like they normally do in September with the return of the school season gave us a dismal September for sales. The demand picked up in early October but most mums were past peak at this point. Fortunately, the pansy market appears to be pretty good so far. Ornamental cabbage also appears to be selling fairly well this fall but there is a much more limited market for these plants compared to pansy plants.

Easter Lily

I know that it is hard to get interested about Easter lilies in November, but it is the time to plan out your planting schedule if you are going to supply Easter lilies in 2009. If done right Easter lily can be one of the most profitable major holiday crops produced. Lilies are grown close together and have a space density of 2 – 3 plants per ft² of growing area. If you can get \$5 to \$6 a plant then this is \$10 - \$18 per ft² of growing area. The cost of heating is the big factor for this winter and will probably reduce the number of Easter lilies grown this year. Many growers may hesitate - will the Easter market be grand this spring and support your price?



Easter lily ‘Ace’

The magic date to keep in mind is **April 12, 2009** which is the date for Easter. Your target to have plants ready for customers is the week before Easter. Why does Easter keep moving around each year? Good question. Easter is the first Sunday following a full moon, on or after the vernal equinox (March 21).

Cultivars Grown

For Easter lily production the two standards for Easter have been ‘Ace’ and ‘Nellie White’. Most growers are producing the larger-flowered ‘Nellie White’ and there is less and less ‘Ace’ on the market which tends to develop leaf tip burn more than ‘Nellie White’.

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Bulb Size

In general, the larger the bulb size, the greater the number of flowers and leaves will be produced. Larger bulbs also tend to force faster than smaller bulbs.

Precooling

Cold treatment (vernalization) is necessary under moist conditions. Basically if you do not give the lily a cold treatment then it would continue to produce leaves and not initiate flowers. The cold treatment induces the bulb to cease making leaves and to form flowers. Unlike many bulbs, the Easter lily bulb is never dormant. New scales or leaves are formed year-round. When exposed to the proper environment, the bulb will sprout, form leaves, and flower. The bulbs must be in moist medium to perceive the cold treatment. Optimum vernalization temperatures are as follows: 'Nellie White', 40 - 45 °F; 'Ace' 38 - 40 °F.

Hitting the Date

After pre-cooling, lilies will need 110 -120 days to bring them into bloom which means that you need to get your bulbs potted up in early December and certainly no later than December 15th. Many growers bring in their bulbs in October and November and pot them up and give them their cold treatment in the pots. This method creates a better root system and thicker stem. With the higher energy costs many growers are allowing their suppliers to take care of the cold treatment.

Poinsettia

It has been great weather for poinsettia growing this fall with many sunny days. We are hearing that the cool weather has many growers running greenhouses cooler than normal and that the poinsettia crop is shorter than normal this fall. Several people are running their poinsettia plants at a positive DIF trying to get more height out of the plants. Some growers are trying applications of the gibberellin (GA) / cytokinin (Fascination) to try to get more height from the plants.

Late Season Whitefly Control

Most greenhouses are reporting very low whitefly activity this fall but there are a few exceptions. Some people let the weeds grow under the benches which served as epicenters for whitefly populations. If you treated with imidacloprid (Marathon) or dinotefuran (Safari) as soil drenches after pinching then you should have pretty good control of whitefly on the foliage that expanded after the application. John Speaker is noting that if whiteflies are present in a greenhouse the adults are having the most success establishing populations on the lower foliage where the systemic did not move into the foliage that was already expanded before a systemic insecticide was applied to the substrate.



Look on the undersides of lower leaves for sessile stages

Many of the poinsettia varieties are starting to show bract color so foliar insecticide applications get tricky at this point. Most of the pesticides will state on the label “do not apply when bracts are in color”. In past years we have observed that Abamectin (Avid), pyridaben (Sanmite), chlorfenapyr (Pylon), acetamiprid (TriStar) and dinotefuran (Safari) applied as foliar sprays in bract stage without causing any noticeable damage on poinsettia varieties such as ‘Freedom’, ‘Prestige’ and ‘Monet’. If you try late season whitefly control try out a spray on a few plants before treating the whole crop.

Cultivars Grown

We are seeing some growers move away from ‘Prestige’ because of reports of higher incidence of Pythium problems. This is probably just individual growers. We haven’t seen any higher incidence of Pythium with this cultivar. ‘Freedom’ is still popular and growers are also growing ‘Orion’ and ‘Orion Early’ varieties. ‘Orion Early’ has nice early bract color that holds for a long time.



Poinsettia ‘Freedom’

2008 Chesapeake Green Energy Conference

November 11, 2008 from 7:30-4:30 at the Howard County Fairgrounds

For registration information go to:
www.mnlaonline.org or call 410-823-8684

Conference to Help the Green Industry Sustain Through Troubled Economic Times

We at the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension have been working closely with MNLA, MGGA, MAA and MDA to develop a one-day seminar to help green industry business owners cope with the adverse economic situation. The conference will be spearheaded by MNLA and will be geared toward helping nursery owners, greenhouse growers, landscape companies, garden centers and arborists.

Mark your calendars for **December 16th** for this conference which will be held at the Ruritan Club in Davidsonville, Maryland. We will have a series of speakers and the chance for owners to exchange ideas on how to help get through this economic time. The proposed title for the conference is: **Beating the Odds: Conquering the Economic Times.**

We will post information on how to register for this conference in the next couple of weeks to <http://ipmnet.umd.edu/crses97.htm>

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Training Seminar for Greenhouse Growers
2008 Tuesday, December 2, 2008

A Greenhouse Production Conference has been scheduled for anyone interested in starting a greenhouse to experienced greenhouse operators. The conference is sponsored by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension and Maryland Greenhouse Growers Association.

The seminar will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Talbot County Agricultural Center in Easton (10659 Hiners Lane).

Topics will include: Energy Management, Bedding Plant Nutrition, Business Management, Diagnosing Disease & Insects, Water and Soil Monitoring, New Products to Grow and Growing in Cooler Greenhouses. These sessions will be taught by University specialists, educators, scouts and experts from the field. Maryland Private Applicator Pesticide Re-Certification credits will be available at this conference.

Registration fee \$35 per person. This fee includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register contact the Talbot County Extension Office at 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu. **Registration is due by November 24th.**