



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

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Poinsettia

Sales of poinsettia for interiorscapes appear to be fairly good this fall. Since fewer people are growing poinsettias this year, it created a small shortage for the interiorscape industry which is fortunate news for those greenhouses with poinsettias available for this market.

It is interesting in the year that many people cut down on their poinsettia numbers that we have had some of the best weather for growing poinsettia. As I have been traveling around for the last two weeks there have been some of the best quality poinsettias seen in a long while. There is very little Botrytis and Pythium root rot has only been a limited problem in a few operations. It has been great weather for poinsettia growing this fall with a lot of sunny days. Let's hope everyone gets in the spirit and starts purchasing poinsettias. It has been a little slow on poinsettia sales so far, but it is still early in the market season.

Marketing Poinsettia

Suzanne Klick and I had a chance to stop by Homestead Growers in Davidsonville, Maryland this week for their poinsettia open house event. The staff at Homestead set up tables with an array of poinsettia cultivars displayed with neatly printed labels. They had evaluation sheets for their customers to view the plants and then rate the cultivars. Oliver Storm told me that this event helps empower their customers besides giving Homestead powerful feedback on what to grow for next year. In a tough market anything that encourages customers to come out and get involved is a great idea. Below is a sampling of cultivars from Fischer, Dummen, Ecke and Selecta that were on display.



'Shimmer™ Pink'



'Shimmer™ Surprise'



'Premium Apricot'



'Cortez™ Burgundy White'



'Carousel™ Dark Red'



Holly Point™



'Premium Picasso Punch'



'Premium Picasso'



Valentine™



'Winter Rose™ Pink'



Strawberries N Cream™



'Dulce Rosa'

(interspecific hybrid of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* and *E. cornuta*)

December 16, 2008 Economic Conference

Make plans to attend the **"Beating the Odds...Preserving Your Company's Future During Tough Economic Times."** This conference will be held Tuesday, December 16th at the Davidsonville Ruritan Community Center. Pre-registration fee is \$25; onsite registration fee is \$35.

Attendees will gain insight on: why customers really do know best; getting your business moving in the right direction; what you need to do, and how to prepare for a visit to your lender; tools for creating best practice skills; learning how to set your own benchmarks, and more. Speakers include Dr. Charles Hall, Texas A & M University, Robert Hendrickson, The Garden Center Group, and Bill Borsa, MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

For complete program information, session descriptions, venue directions, and registration information go to <http://mmlaonline.com/>

This conference is sponsored by: Maryland Arborist Association, Maryland Greenhouse Growers' Association, Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, and the University of Maryland Extension, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Corporate sponsor is MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

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Maryland Cut Flower Growers

Cut flower growers meet three times a year (November, January and February) at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis. These meetings give growers an opportunity to network, troubleshoot problems and exchange new ideas. The next two meetings are scheduled for January 13, 2009 and February 17, 2009.

Gerbera Daisies

One grower who has started growing gerberas has had problems with leafminers which show up in late summer into fall. He noted that he gets a few flowers on each plant throughout the winter, and then gets a great bloom in the spring. Leafminer controls include Avid (abamectin), TriStar (acetamiprid), Azatin (azadirachtin), Safari (dinotefuran), and Astro (permethrin).



Mini Glads

Another grower mentioned having problems with mini glads that were not very vigorous and had distorted flowers. Several growers present suggested that it was possible that the corms were infested with thrips at the start of the season. Thrips also cause streaking of the foliage when they feed. When receiving a shipment, be sure to examine corms closely for thrips. If unsure if thrips are present, take or send a sample to your local extension office. No products are registered for treating the corms so it is important to monitor the crop during the growing season. If thrips are present on plants, insecticides such as Conserve can be applied.



Streaking of foliage from thrips feeding



Flower distortion caused by thrips feeding

Calendula

Bill Preston suggested calendula as a crop to grow to extend the field growing season. He grows 14 varieties of calendula which he mentioned were still in bloom in his field in Glen Dale on the day of the meeting (November 19) after a night in the 20s. He direct sows them no later than August 1st to harvest stems in October and November. His plants grow to about 18" with 2 – 3" flowers on a 12" stem. When sowing for spring production, the flowers are smaller. He noted that young buds do close at night.

Celosia

Several growers mentioned that they are growing the plume type celosia ‘Sylphid’ which has a greenish to white or yellow flower. It was pointed out that shading can increase the green color of the flower and that the flowers growing in the field appear greener on cloudy days. Bob Wollam recommended pinching when the plants are 2’ tall and removing 4 – 5” of growth. Bob also noted that green zinnias tend to produce too many single flowers. Stems can be slow to stiffen before harvest. Paula Harman has found this celosia works well in arrangements.



Training Seminar for Greenhouse Growers 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.**