

# THE MUM CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE OLD DOMINION CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY  
*A Chapter of the National Chrysanthemum Society, Inc., USA*  
[odcsmums.club](http://odcsmums.club)

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Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society  
Presents

## *The 50<sup>th</sup>* **Chrysanthemum Show**

James Lee Community Center  
2855 Annandale Road  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
Horticultural, Ikebana and floral designs  
Chrysanthemum sales  
Photographers welcome

Saturday, October 25, 2025  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, October 26, 2025  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone's summer is going well. The Washington Post on August 31 reported that this August may be the driest in 150 years, which has posed a real challenge for mum growers in recent weeks.

Our meeting for September will be in-person instead of Zoom. It will be held on Sunday, September 7, at 1:30 pm, at the Charles Beatley Central Library of Alexandria, located at 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria,

VA 22304 (tel: 703-746-1702). There is plenty of parking at the library. We have reserved a spacious room. The library has a no food rule but bottled water is permitted.

The primary focus of the meeting will be on organizing for this year's Annual Show. As a volunteer organization, ODCS depends on member participation to make the show a success. Many of you participated in last year's show and we hope you're able to participate in the upcoming show. At the meeting we'll go over the planned show schedule and the opportunities for participation.

Members are also welcome to bring one or two of their plants (or photos) for show and tell or for evaluation. This is a forum for questions and answers. I believe this is the first in-person monthly meeting we've had in a while, and we hope as many of you as possible can attend!

Attached to this newsletter is the 2025 Show Flyer, as shown above. Please circulate it to your circle of friends and family and invite them to come to our show.

As always, if you have a friend or family member who is interested in mums, consider providing them a copy of the ODCS Membership Form, which is attached to the email of this newsletter. Have them mail the completed form and dues to the address provided: Galen Goss, 3128 Village Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

## **GROWING TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER**

If you have been shading in August for the mid- or late-season cultivars, your plants should be showing signs of forming buds. Continue to shade until the buds are pea size.

Per our Feeding Schedule, we shift to a low nitrogen fertilizer in September (recommended 10-30-20). This encourages the plant to shift its energy into the flower buds and not into leafy growth. Also, continue pruning, removing all unwanted growth to shape the plant like lateral branches on the large bloomed types. Do it weekly. Move your large bloom types under the eaves or an awning to protect them from the

rain. A large bloom can hold almost a pound of water which not only ruins the petals can break the stem.

## HOW TO USE B-NINE

To retard neck stretching just below the blooms on potted chrysanthemum plants, spray the top 1/3 of the foliage to runoff with 0.25% (or 2500 ppm) of B-Nine after shading, when buds are about pea size.

Important: do not spray on buds. One gallon of spray will treat 200 square feet so mix only a small amount. For a quart quantity, mix  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon of B-Nine with warm water. Use the spray within 24 hours. Apply during morning or evening hours for best results in foliage absorption. As in using any chemical sprays, wear gloves and protect your eyes and skin. You can find safety information at this website:

[https://www.ohp.com/Labels\\_MSDS/PDF/b-nine\\_sds.pdf](https://www.ohp.com/Labels_MSDS/PDF/b-nine_sds.pdf)

## CHRYSANTHEMUM DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS

Jacquie Smith found this useful fact sheet on chrysanthemum diseases and pests from Clemson Cooperative Extension. It lists common chrysanthemum diseases with description, prevention, and the products for treatment. Part of the learning process as a grower is to be able to research and diagnose the symptoms affecting your plants. Please make a note of this website for your reference:

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/chrysanthemum-diseases-insect-pests/>

## NEW CHRYSANTHEMUM HANDBOOK

The new NCS *Chrysanthemum Handbook for Exhibitors, Judges and Shows* is now available for purchase. It is recommended that all exhibitors and growers obtain a copy as there is a lot of new information on growing standards and evaluation criteria. There are several updates that will be relevant for our show going forward. Key revisions have been made to Section K (Seedlings and Sports), Section L P-4 (Daruma form), and Section P (Cut flower/Garden cultivars).

## UPCOMING DATES/ACTIVITIES, 2025

Please remember to save these dates for upcoming ODCS activities:

- Sunday, September 7, 1:30 pm, in-person membership meeting at the Charles Beatley Central Library of Alexandria, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304
- Saturday and Sunday, October 25-26, ODCS's Annual Show, James Lee Community Center, Falls Church, VA (with setup Fri Oct 24)
- Visit to Hillwood Estate, TBD
- November Annual Meeting and Luncheon, TBD
- November, NCS National Convention and Show, TBD

**Attachments:** 2025 ODCS Annual Show Flyer, ODCS Membership Form, National Chrysanthemum Society Publications Order Form