



Greenhouse Pest Message, June 6, 2022

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Planting is underway for garden mums. Hopefully, you were able to obtain everything needed for this.

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 mums off to a good start.

Mums are heavy feeders during their first few weeks. Some grower use 100% water soluble fertilizer whereas others 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), soil temperature 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 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.

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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