

Chrysanthemums and Their Culture

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CHRYSANTHEMUM plants, whether plunged in the ground in pots or planted out in the open garden, require plenty of water at the roots, as well as spraying to prevent insect pests. The tips of the young growth from time of starting of each shoot should be pinched off when the growth is about eight inches in length. This "pinching off" or shortening should be discontinued early in July and the plants allowed to grow after that. The last repotting should not be later than the second week in July. Early in September, or perhaps late in August, the plants planted out should be dug when the ground is wet, and potted into large pots into rich soil. Give them some shade for a few days or a week. Keep the soil well moist at the roots and spray the tops every day with clear water. Those in pots should be lifted and treated in the same way, except that they would not require to be potted.

Keep the plants out of doors as late as possible under partial protection, the early white frosts will not injure them if slightly protected at night. Take them into the window toward the middle of September so that they will not be exposed to more than two or three degrees of frost. By protecting them on cold nights, they may sometimes be kept out of doors until quite late in the fall. This is better than taking them indoors too early.

The buds of the large flowering varieties may be thinned when they are about the size of peas if large flowers are wanted. Thin out the smallest and weakest buds here and there on each branch or shoot. I do not advise disbudding to only one bud to a stem, for amateurs. If this is done, leave the largest and best buds near the top of each stem or branch, what is known as the crown bud. Pompons or single, small flowering varieties are best not disbudded at all. The Pompons make splendid pot plants for the window.

One of the best remedies for almost all of the insect pests that attack chrysanthemums is to fumigate the plants with tobacco or hydrocyanic acid gas. It is not possible for amateurs to fumigate plants with these unless with special conveniences. The next best remedy is to spray the plants with strong tobacco solutions or with kerosene emulsion. The last-named should not be quite as strong as is used for fruit trees. One of the best solutions I have found is to make a kerosene solution by boiling in two quarts of soft water, two ounces of finely sliced common soap until dissolved. Take it away from the fire, and at once, while the soap solution is quite hot, stir in half a pint of coal oil, stirring it well for ten minutes, then add three gallons of cold water and mix thoroughly with the soap mixture. Instead of using water as last mentioned, the

same quantity of water in which about one half pound of tobacco leaf stems, refuse from the cigar factory, or dried tobacco leaves, or even a large plug of smoking tobacco had been boiled, will make the solution more effective.

Apply the solution when cold in a fine spray to the tips of the shoots for the plant bug, and to the other parts infested with the insects, more especially to the under side of the leaves for red spider. Kept in a cool place the solution will keep good for several weeks. Dusting the terminal points of growth with dry Pyrethrum Powder, dry, soft coal soot, or tobacco dust when the foliage is damp (not wet) after the kerosene emulsion has been applied, is an additional remedy for the attacks of the Tarnished Plant Bug.

The Tarnished Plant Bug is a small insect barely half an inch in length, of a bronzy brown color. It punctures the extreme point of growth, causing "blind" or non-flowering growths. It is very quick in its movements, especially in the heat of the day. It does not seem to work very much in the shade, and can be caught with the hand very early in the morning. Shading the plants during July and August would be beneficial. Spraying every day early in the morning with clear or soapy water through the hot weather is a good preventative for the attacks of all insect pests. Sulpho-Tobacco Soap, to be had at seed stores, is a good insecticide.

Summer Care of Palms

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After the apple blooms fall, place palms outside in a sheltered position, where they can be given plenty of water. At this time, if they are not repotted, bone meal should be worked into the surface of the soil and a liquid manure of bone meal given once a month or so during the growing season.

Both during winter and summer, shower the leaves frequently with as forceful a stream as possible, to prevent scale and mealy bugs getting a start. Keep the leaves and stems clean by wiping off every once in a while with a soft cloth and soapy water, syringing with clean water afterwards.

Close to the house on the south side is not a good position for a climbing rose. The heat is too intense and concentrated in the summer to get good roses. Insect pests are also induced in this position by the heat. An east or west aspect is the best for climbing roses. The north side, if not too close to the building, would do fairly well. In any case, the roses should not be trained too close to the house. A few inches of space to allow for spraying and circulation of air is best.



A First Prize Porch in a St. Thomas Competition: That of J. A. McCance