

Tech Shares

Fall Mums

Tech Sheet for Fall Mums

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Overall comments on crop:

- Mums are heavy feeders especially during the vegetative stage.
- Much of the plant growth occurs before flower buds are pea-sized.
- Typical problems are poor size and light green foliage due to inadequate nutrition.
- Adequate Magnesium will ensure dark green foliage.

100% Water soluble fertilizer (WSF) program:

- Ideally fertilizer selection should be based on a current water analysis (contact your ICL representative for more details).
- A good general program would be Peters Professional® 15-5-25 @ 200 to 250 ppm N on a constant basis.
- Lower concentrations will work if little leaching occurs from the drainage holes during fertigation.
- Commence feeding at planting or as soon as cuttings are rooted.
- WSF applications should be reduced after bud formation – either cut fertilizer concentration in half or clear water every other watering.

100% Controlled release fertilizer (CRF) program:

- Osmocote® Plus (5-6 mo. @ 70°F in N. zones/ 8-9 mo. @ 70°F in S. zones) incorporated at 10 to 12 lbs. per cu. yard.
- Media should be used within 2 to 3 weeks after mixing in CRF.
- Monitor EC in root zone in first few weeks especially if temperatures are high.
- Select a longer term product to extend feeding in the garden center and to help plants establish in the landscape.
- CRF will reduce nutrient loss to the environment and save cost & labor.



Combination fertilizer program:

- Osmocote® Plus (5-6 mo. @ 70°F in N. zones/ 8-9 mo. @ 70°F in S. zones) incorporated at 5 to 8 lbs. per cu. yard.
- Fertigate with Peters Professional® 15-5-25 @ 100 to 150 ppm N on a constant basis up until bud set.

Supplements:

- Add Magnesium in form of Peters Excel® Magnitrate 10-0-0 @ 4 oz. per 100 gallons on a constant basis if Mg is lacking in program.
- Monthly applications of Peters Professional® Liquid STEM™ at 2 fl. oz. per 100 gallons will promote deep green foliage.
- Apply a medium rate of H2Pro® liquid before shipping to help prevent wilting in the post-harvest phase.

Problem solving:

- If using 100% WSF, need to fertigate after heavy rainfall to replenish leached nutrients.

