

# Gardening Today

Mark Taylor, president of the Men's Garden club, has given this practical information (by request) on taking chrysanthemum cuttings. As you will note he says the cuttings should be taken in March, but much of our March work this year has been left until April because of weather conditions, and now it will crowd down upon us.



Lillie L. Madsen

This is Mr. Taylor's information:

While chrysanthemum cuttings should be taken in March, they may be rooted satisfactorily as late as May. The proper time for taking cuttings is when the sucker growth from the parent plant is three or four inches tall.

The slips should be chosen carefully, taking only the ones that are healthy and that have a good color. A good rule is to take only the cuttings farthest away from the parent plant, and slips from the old stems should be avoided unless no other growth has appeared.

The cuttings may be broken off with a portion of the hair-root attached, and the lower leaves of the sucker should be trimmed off leaving a stem about three inches in length with not more than two sets of leaves. This cutting may then be inserted in sharp sand or a mixture of sand and peat moss. The flats must be kept moist at all times and shaded from the sun as well as protected from any drafts. It may be necessary to spray with a mild solution of contact spray to combat aphids.

**Stem Cuttings**  
If the root cuttings are not sufficient to provide the quantity of plants desired, stem cuttings may be taken by cutting the stem with a sharp knife, leaving a stem length of about three inches. These will be inserted in the sand in the same manner as root cuttings.

Cuttings taken in this manner may be rooted outdoors without protection other than that mentioned. The length of time required for rooting will depend upon the existing weather conditions. Normally cuttings will root sufficiently to be transplanted to their permanent location in two or three weeks.

If it is not practical to transplant the rooted cuttings as soon as they are rooted, or even if they are transplanted and the tops grow considerably, it will be necessary to pinch them back as early as a week or two following rooting. The top which is pinched back can be trimmed of the lower leaves and itself inserted in the sand and will root in the same manner, making it possible to raise several dozen plants from cuttings off one parent plant.

No fertilizer should be applied to the young plants while in flats, but the flat must never be permitted to dry out. It is a common practice in this locality to start chrysanthemums in the open, and if no flats are available or are inconvenient to use, a trench may be dug, the lower part of which is filled with gravel to assure drainage, and then filled with sand in which the cuttings may be rooted.

If it is not necessary to transplant the young rooted cuttings into pots or other locations before being moved to their permanent location. The cuttings may be placed in the flat as close as one inch each way. Under such crowded conditions, however, as soon as a good set of roots has formed, they should be transplanted.

**Soil Mixture**  
There is considerable argument between amateur growers as to the best soil mixture for starting. It seems to be universally accepted that clear sharp sands is sufficient. However, I (Mark Taylor) have had exceptional success with the use of peat moss alone, inasmuch as peat holds moisture and the roots grow rapidly, trying to reach out for food. In transplanting rooted cuttings that have been started in peat, the roots cling to

a ball of peat and are less disturbed in transplanting than if rooted in sharp sand.

The soil in which the small plants are to be permanently located should be well drained and loose in texture although mums will do well in any fairly good garden soil. Stakes should be put in place when the plants are transplanted to their permanent location in order to avoid injury to the roots, and in speaking of stakes, do not make the mistake of underestimating the growth that your plant will make. The stakes should be at least four feet above the ground as most varieties will exceed that height.

The principal rules for success in chrysanthemum culture are take cuttings early, never let the soil dry out, stake, pinch back and dis-bud thoroughly.

**Flower Shows**  
I hope many of you got to the daffodil show at Portland this past week. I was unable to make it, but I understand that it was very fine.

The Oregon Camellia Society show, which started yesterday, continues through today (Sunday) at the Masonic temple at Portland. H. H. Harms is chairman.

The Oregon Primrose society show will be held Wednesday and Thursday at the Portland Art museum, and on Friday the Oswego Garden club spring flower show will be held at the Oswego club house.

**Answers and Questions**  
O. W. asks if strawberries are injured in any way when planted near English walnuts or by being mulched by walnut leaves.

Ans: Definitely. Walnut leaves are very acid and strawberries like lime in their soil. They should be removed from any location near the walnut trees and never be mulched with leafmold containing walnut leaves. April is a good time to set out a new strawberry bed.

S. B. asks when camellias should be fertilized. Says he can't remember if it is just as they finish blooming or in the fall when the buds set.  
Ans: He was right the first time. The proper time is just as the flowers fade and new growth starts. Give each bush that is five feet tall about a cupful of commercial fertilizer. Scratch it lightly into the surface of the soil. He is also right the second time, for in autumn, camellia experts tell us to put a mulch of four or five inches of well decayed cow barn fertilizer around the camellia.

## Scio Building In New Site

SCIO, April 5 (Special)—The building on the corner of the C. E. Kendle acreage at the outskirts of Scio, used as a residence by the J. R. Cook family for several years, recently was purchased by Mrs. Bess Phillip and moved to her lots near the R. M. Cain residence in north Scio. Richard Kendle and family will continue to occupy the building on the new site. Kendle recently was released from war work which took him to Seattle, Bremerton, and for a time in the far south and elsewhere. He was in ship repair work most of the time.

Arriving recently from virtually three years of seabee service, two years of which were spent in the Solomon islands, was Frank Crane, a son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Crane of the Providence section near Scio. His brother, Howard, is at Crabtree, having been discharged from the army last summer.

Clifford Fellows and family of Jefferson are hoping to become residents of Scio as soon as the housing problem can be solved. They have been at a tourist camp at Jefferson since his discharge from the navy. His brother, Milo, and his wife recently moved into their new residence near the local high school. Both men are in the employ of the Walker Timber company.



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