

GREENHOUSE PROCEDURES -2008

WATERING, FERTILIZING, CHECKING

Farm Gate --Will be open each weekday, but not on Sat. & Sunday. A key to the lock is located on last post of the left hand railing. Replace once you have unlocked the gate so it will be there for the next team member.

Items to Check as you enter:

- 1 Pilot on heater is lighted. Carefully touch the 5th vertical tube on the front of the heater. If it is warm/hot, it's ok.
- 2 Check temperature record. Min/Max/Current temperature on thermometer ---record on log. Be sure to cancel min/max temp. on thermometer.
- 3 Two white overhead fans should be on 24/7.
- 4 Check temperature setting for heater and cooling fan. Heater should be set at 60 degrees and fan at 80.
- 5 Check the Mist Propagator for plugged nozzles. If not misting properly, slide the wire off and remove the nozzle and unplug it with a small wire hanging on the frame. Reinstall the nozzle, taking care not to cross-thread and put the wire back on. Make sure it is working properly.

Plants:

There are two new coil hoses, one for each aisle, to be used for watering. Be sure to return the hoses to their storage cradles.

Watering --Water all plants that need watering. If the soil is wet, do not water. It is best for the plant to be on the dry side than for it to be soggy. However, flats having very little soil will dry very quickly and need more attention than pots, baskets and bowls. Use hose and wand to water, using a gentle spray so as not to wash the soil from the roots. Water is supplied from the tank through a pump/pressure tank system. **THIS PUMP MUST BE ON 24/7 ---DO NOT UNPLUG.** It supplies water to the mist propagator, either to the inside unit or the one outside.

Once watering is complete, refill the large bottom tank. Close the valve to the outside and open valve to the tank. Reverse this procedure once the tank is filled. If you do not reset the valves the tank will over flow and flood the greenhouse when the timer calls for water to the outside sprinklers. This applies only when there are plants in the outside growing area -- starting sometime in April.

How to turn on the main pump for filling the tank:

1. If plants are in the outside growing area and being watered automatically:

The main pump switch will be on. Push the gray lever in the timer box to the right. This will activate the pump. Push back to the left to stop when the tank is full. Reset the valves. **DO NOT TURN THE MAIN SWITCH OFF.**

2. If not watering outside – Set the valves as above, turn main pump switch on. When full turn off the main pump switch.

In addition to watering, check plants for evidence of disease and insect infestation. If there are problems contact Ted at 236-9865, Gerry at 299-331, or Carl Debnam at 645-3822

Special Notes:

1. When watering, especially flats, make sure you water all the plants. Corners and edges are most prone to be under watered. Move the spray all the way across each flat, sides and ends.

2. Days that are cloudy and expected to be all day, watering and fertilizing is not advisable. That is, unless the plants have dried out during hot sunny weather the day before. Use good judgment so as not to over water, but still not put the plants in jeopardy. Spot watering may be called for.

3. If at all possible water prior to noon. The hot afternoon sun can dry out flats very quickly. Note on the log the time of day you checked the greenhouse and watered.

Fertilization --- At present we will fertilize on Friday. This schedule is somewhat flexible (see below). Fertilization is done at the same time the plants are watered. There is a fertilizer proportioning device mounted on the frame for the large water tanks. The concentrated fertilizer solution in

the 5 gallon bucket is proportioned as you water the plants. Procedure is as follows:

1. Disconnect the light green hose from the shutoff valve and connect it to the left end of the proportioning unit.
2. Connect the short brown hose to the water supply (where the light green hose was removed)
3. Open the valves on both ends of the proportioning unit. Open the valve for water to the unit.
4. Run water into a 5 gal. bucket until you see a very light blue-green color. This is to evacuate the hose of pure water. No fertilizer would be applied to the first plants if this is not done.
5. Connect the wand and proceed to water and fertilize with a gentle spray.
6. You will hear clicking sound every 5-10 seconds which indicates the proportioning device is working

Note: Flexibility in Fertilizing --- If plants do not need water, do not fertilize.

Make a note in the log that you did not fertilize. It should be done the next day by the next man.

One other note: Please check the assignment schedule, mark your dates in your calendar so you will remember. We have had some missed days which can be critical during hot weather. Fortunately, we have not lost any plants due to missed days. This will become more critical as the plants grow and demand more water and the temperature increases. However, "DO NOT OVER WATER"--- SPOT WATERING MAY BE IN ORDER. REMEMBER, CORNERS AND ENDS OF FLATS ARE MOST OFTEN UNDER WATERED. BASKETS AND BOWLS DO NOT NEED TO BE WATERED AS OFTEN AS FLATS DUE TO THE LARGER VOLUME OF SOIL.