

Growing with Jack

...a monthly newsletter from Jack Peters

Dear Gardener:

Welcome to the Jack's Classic® monthly newsletter. The purpose of my newsletter is to pass on timely tips on how to get the most from your plants using good plant nutrition.

Please send your topic suggestions, questions or comments via email to info@jrpeters.com.

Happy Planting!

Jack

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August/September 2004

The end of the summer and beginning of fall are great times for all of your outdoor gardens especially flowering materials. Temperatures are moderate and there is still plenty of available light for everything to thrive. You still want to keep up your feeding programs every other week. I tend to feed more of the Blossom Booster 10-30-20 with its lower Nitrogen and higher Potassium to finish off the crops for the season.

I found that I had a difficult time keeping my nutritional levels up this year with the heavy periods of rainfall we experienced in eastern PA. I had more success with my baskets and container gardens where I made an application of controlled release fertilizers early in the season and still fed them every other week with the Dynamic Duo combination. The product that I used was one we designed and put in trial this past season. It will be available for the garden centers to purchase this fall and will show up on their shelves next spring.

The new product will be called Jack's Classicote™ Time-Release Fertilizer 16-9-23.

This product is designed for all outdoor and indoor plants. One application is designed to feed all season, up to 4 months. You can use it as a stand-alone product or as I did as a supplement for your normal Jack's Classic® feeding program. There is more information about this product at www.jacksclassic.com

A couple of other thoughts from this season to pass along:

- My petunia baskets took a real beating in the heavy rainstorms. I found that it was important to pick off the damaged flowers and get some air movement around the baskets to prevent diseases that thrive in high humidity conditions.

- The Japanese Beetles had a great time with a large isolated impatiens planting and I let them stay there since the other plants and trees in my yard had very little damage if any. The beetles are gone now and the plant has made a good recovery and no chemical sprays were involved. Maybe the idea of a sacrificial plant really works.
- Take a look at all the new colors and varieties of fall mums and pansies at the garden centers in the next couple of weeks. The selections are better than ever.
- Grouping 3 or 4 different mums in a large container can make a great fall color display. Use a good quality potting soil when you transplant so that you get good drainage. They will last much longer if you keep them moist and not let them dry down to the point of wilting.

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