



November 4, 2008

Poinsettia Open House

From 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Dec. 3 - Dec. 5, 2008

Floriculture Greenhouses

**Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station –Cook Campus
New Brunswick, New Jersey**

Approximately 100 Poinsettia cultivars provided by Fischer, Dummen, Selecta First Class, and the Paul Ecke Ranch, will be on display during our annual Poinsettia open house.

The Open House will take place from Dec. 3 - Dec. 5 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Floriculture Greenhouses that are located behind Blake Hall, directly off Nichol Avenue on the Cook College Campus. Regardless of whether you sell them, buy them, or just enjoy a colorful display, it will be a chance to see what's new, and learn more about growing, handling, and marketing this important crop.



This year, we are finishing the crop (over 100 cultivars) under two different temperature regimes to evaluate the energy conservation potential of this approach. One temperature regime will be the traditional day and night temperatures the other will be a temperature regime characterized as "cold production" touted as a way to save on energy costs. While there is information about responses it should be interesting to see how 100 different cultivars respond to this adjustment.

We are implementing Vapor Pressure Deficit (VPD) sensing as an irrigation management method in conjunction with trickle irrigation for Poinsettia production. Vapor Pressure Deficit sensing is an aspect of humidity measurement and monitoring that is used in conjunction with the irrigation control system to indirectly estimate a crops need for irrigation and manage the timing of irrigations.

Anyone interested in energy conservation or irrigation management should find the open house of interest. The program is informal and free of charge. It is an educational opportunity open to anyone interested in learning more about this important floricultural crop. For more information call Ms. Nickie Graf at 732-932-9301.

Directions: From The NJ Turnpike: Turn off at exit 9 and follow signs for "Route 18 North- New Brunswick. Proceed along Route 18 North after the first traffic light the road rises over Route 1. Take the exit for Route 1 South. It is on the right.

From Route 1 South: proceed past the turn off for Route 18. After the Ryder's Lane exit look for "College Farm Road" on the right. Turn right on College farm road and proceed to the four way stop at Dudley Road. Turn left on Dudley Road, and follow to the end at Nichol Ave. Turn right on Nichol Ave. the Floriculture greenhouses are on the right at the second entrance. From Route 1 North, proceed to the Squibb Drive/College Farm Road Exit. Turn left onto College Farm Road and proceed as above.

From 287: Take Exit 9 and follow river road east toward Highland Park. At the 5th light (approx. 3.7 miles), bear right onto the bridge and cross the Raritan River. This is Route 18 South. Stay on 18 south to route 1 south (Exit on right). Proceed as above.

Dr. George Wulster
Floriculture Specialist
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