

# Greenhouse Tips & Helpful Hints

## Just a bit about me... Mike Hellmann

I appreciate you taking the time to read my "Greenhouse Tips & Helpful Hints". I hope it is helpful to most of you in some way. I just thought I'd give you some background on me and also my reasons for wanting to do this. I was a commercial flower grower for over 25 years, growing crops year-round such as poinsettias, Easter lilies, hydrangeas, Dutch bulbs, cut flowers and, of course, spring blooming annuals. I absolutely loved facing the challenges that seemed to appear each and every day.

This was a labor of love as well as a means of earning a paycheck. Finishing a successful crop, after making all the efforts towards that end, was a real emotional rush to the point where I almost hated to ship it! Well, times do change and I now spend my days helping small growers and schools with cropping schedules, finding plant material, proper soils and supplies, troubleshooting, etc. Your successes along with being able to help you with your challenges gives me that same rush that growing plants did a few years back.

For the past two years, I've had the opportunity to spend time at the FFA conventions as a member of the CDE Nursery and Landscape Committee as well as on the show floor. It was immediately obvious to me that these FFA students were indeed a cut above the rest. They were polite, responsible and much more mature than most of the high school students I've made contact with. I was taken by this as it really gave me hope for our future. This world needs these kids and more like them. Just knowing that I can help in making a difference by helping you inspire some students to continue further into the world of horticulture, or at least appreciate it, as they mainstream into society means a lot.

With these periodic "Helpful Hints" I just hope to share my greenhouse experiences with you while, at the same time, allowing you to use my trial and error rather than inventing your own. If something can go wrong in the greenhouse, I've probably seen it. I work with many of you now and would love the opportunity to work with many more of you. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can help your greenhouse programs/projects/challenges in any way. Knowing that I can make a difference here while sourcing plants to help make this world a prettier place at the same time offers that same rush as did bringing in acres of poinsettias years ago.

**Thank you,**

**Mike Hellmann  
Plants & Cuttings  
Hummert International**