

# Chat ROOM

*Editor's Note: Each month, we send out a survey to our readers on a variety of topics and report the results here. Chat Room is a perfect venue to get to know your peers and where you stand on different issues affecting the industry. Do you have a question you want us to ask? Contact editor, Jasmina Dolce, at [jdolce@greatamericanpublish.com](mailto:jdolce@greatamericanpublish.com).*

This month, we asked readers about perennials, pest and disease concerns, and California Summer Trials. Here's what they had to say.

Do you grow/sell perennials?

**MORE THAN 80% SAID YES!**

What is one perennial you have added or want to add to your production this year?

#### SOME RESPONSES WERE:

- **Oregano** 'Drops of Jupiter'
- **Dianthus** 'Rockin' Red'
- **Leucanthemum** 'Betsy'
- **Gaillardia** Spintop
- **Coreopsis** 'Super Star'
- **Prunella** 'Summer Daze'
- **Campanula** 'Blue Waterfall'
- **Sempervivum** Hippie Chicks

What is the biggest challenge when growing/selling perennials?

**YOU SAID:**

- “ Harder to sell when not flowering
- “ Maintaining temperature requirements
- “ Too many selections from breeders
- “ Keeping them in prime condition from March to September
- “ Enough growing space to keep up with demand
- “ Teaching people how to use them in gardens
- “ Having enough variety to sell landscapers
- “ Predicting finish time

*Learn about perennial trials on page 36.*

Which pest(s) are your main concern heading into spring? The top five culprits are:

- #1 APHIDS**
- #2 THRIPS**
- #3 MITES**
- #4 MEALYBUGS**
- #5 WHITEFLIES**

Which plant disease(s) are your main concern heading into spring? The top three complaints are:

- #1 A TIE! BOTRYTIS & POWDERY MILDEW**
- #2 PHYTOPHTHORA**
- #3 PYTHIUM**

*Turn to page 14 for pest control information and page 22 for disease information.*

What type of information is most valuable to you when learning about new introductions?

#### YOU SAID:

“ Disease and insect susceptibilities

“ Improved characteristics

“ Culture notes

“ Market interest

“ The location of the trial and how it translates to my growing zone times

“ Height at bloom and sun/shade requirements

“ Real world evaluations

“ Color images in finished 6-inch pots

“ Bloom times

“ Growth habit and growth regulators

“ The location of the trial and how it translates to my growing zone

**The 2021 California Summer Trials are just around the corner. While travel is still restricted for many people, industry professionals will be relying on alternative methods for new variety education.**