



Metrolina Greenhouse Internship Final Report

Madison Frost

During my 6-month internship at Metrolina Greenhouse I worked in Mx5, which is the newest range of the greenhouse, and consists of twenty-six acres divided into two thirteen-acre sections. My tasks and responsibilities as an assistant grower consisted of evaluating when the crop needed to be watered, setting out sticky cards and scouting for pests, taking weekly soil samples, taking weekly height measurements in the chrysanthemum crop, as well as drenching crops with plant growth regulators, applying chemicals according to the scheduled program, working within the computer program and system to irrigate the crop, and working to keep the crop's appearance finished, uniform, and ready to ship. I was also able to work in an area called the trailer pad, Mx5's outdoor growing area, which is used to grow mums throughout the

summer. That area had some unique opportunities for learning-including laying out drip irrigation tubing for each irrigation zone to provide a better alternative to overhead irrigation.

I learned so much from this internship experience and feel like I really benefited from the opportunity to apply what I learned in school to real world situations and problems. Some of the practical skills I learned and was able to become more confident in were irrigation, pest identification, taking (and understanding) soil samples, and mixing and applying chemicals. I feel like I really honed my ability to determine where each crop was in its wet and dry cycle and when to apply water, as well as becoming much more comfortable and confident mixing and applying chemicals, as I did a lot of hand spraying. I also loved the opportunity to use and become more confident applying PGR'S through drenching. I also learned how to drive the cranes and little orange carts that are used as transportation in Mx5. Some other skills I was able to hone are my ability to do a job well but also quickly, and time management, which are both critical in a busy workplace.

Metrolina was a great host company. The housing stipend provided was a great asset in paying for housing nearby, and I felt very welcomed. I had a team of co-workers who created a great environment of teamwork, learning, and positivity. I appreciated the opportunity to learn the process of growing an entire crop in-depth, but also being able to get a taste of many different aspects of working and growing in a greenhouse. A great thing about Mx5 was the emphasis on helping out other departments when we could. This meant that we routinely helped propagation with sticking cuttings on the sticking line, helped the barn assemble plugs into the appropriate combinations and pots to be grown to finish, or helped other ranges take cuttings, stick cuttings, or water poinsettias that were in color. The growers I worked under did

a great job listening to and answering my questions, teaching me how to do a task and why it was necessary, and encouraging the team in general. I also loved the learning opportunities that were provided for us with occasional lunches to learn about how to grow the next season's crop or what pest pressures to look out for, as well as opportunities to learn from their consultants, Dr. Royal Heins and Suzanne Wainwright-Evans (The Bug Lady). Overall, Metrolina is an amazing company that brings a lot into the industry. I don't see myself working there long-term, but I learned so much from them and gained so much from my experience there.

I am excited to return to Brigham Young University – Idaho to finish my education and I plan to continue in the greenhouse and nursery industry in the future while also branching out and tailoring my interests to an encompassing career in the green industry. I will definitely be applying the things I learned from this internship for the rest of my career. I loved working with the other interns and international students working at Metrolina and I treasure the time I had with them. I left this internship feeling so accomplished and confident in my knowledge and abilities and I am excited for what the future brings. Thank you so much to everyone who made this experience possible and amazing, especially Metrolina Greenhouse and all my friends there, The American Floral Endowment, and my faculty advisor Dr. Reese Nelson for encouraging me to apply.

