

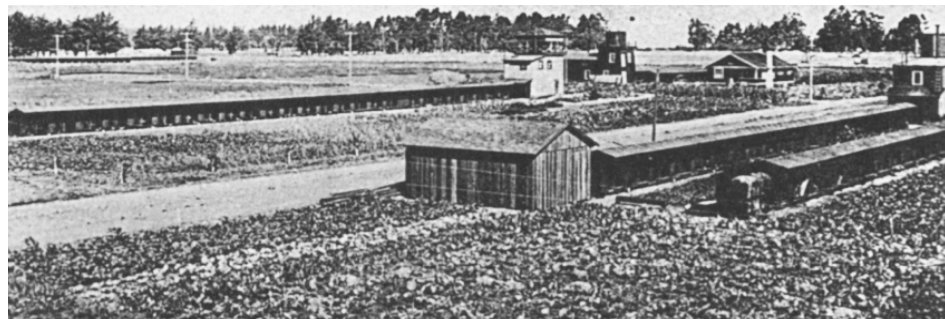
Chrysanthemums on the Midpeninsula



An example of cultivation in a cheesecloth house, an innovation developed by Henry L. Goertzain of the Redwood City Nursery in 1904. Cheesecloth protected against overexposure to the sun and wind. In the summer months, some growers would drape the wooden frames with black cloth to simulate the shorter daylight hours of autumn and winter needed for bloom formation. Courtesy Kiku Kumiai, Fifty Years.



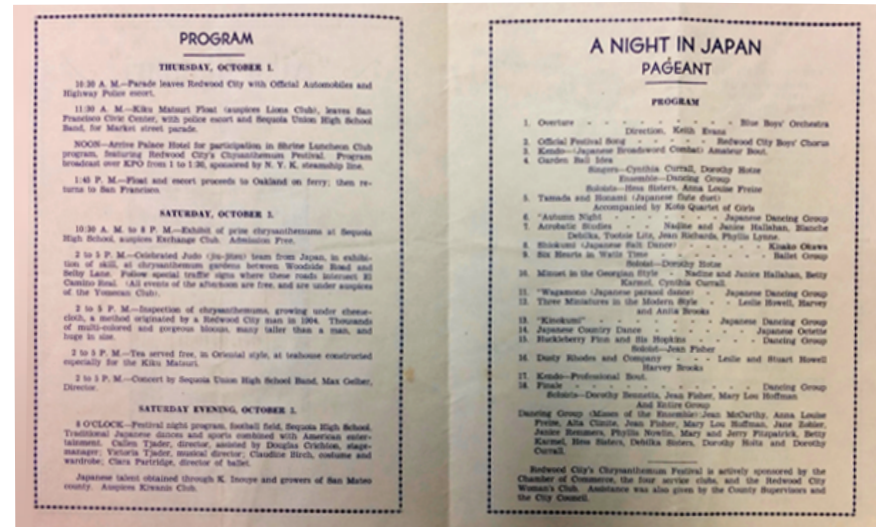
Mums grown under cheesecloth attained greater height and produced larger blooms than field grown ones. Courtesy San Mateo County History Museum.



Peninsula floriculture gradually moved southward from San Mateo to Santa Clara County due to the disruption of World War II and increasing real estate prices. Some Japanese and Italian growers settled in Runnymede (modern day East Palo Alto) from the 1930s through the 1950s, pictured above, while Chinese growers, who became more influential after the war, were concentrated around Mountain View. Pressure from cheaper South American imports eventually forced flower growers to abandon the Bay Area for Gilroy and the Monterey Peninsula. By the end of the century most floriculture had left the state. Redwood City commemorated the role of chrysanthemums during its 150th anniversary with a series of wall paintings by artist Jane Kim. Courtesy PAHA and Inkdwel.com.



A San Mateo County Fair Queen among prize-winning chrysanthemums in the 1930s. Courtesy Kiku Kumiai, Fifty Years.



Program from the first annual Kiku Matsuri, the Japanese-American Chrysanthemum Festival held in Redwood City in 1929. Kiku is Japanese for chrysanthemum, an important royal and national symbol. Courtesy San Mateo County History Museum.



Paul Althouse, the owner of Goertzain's original Redwood City Nursery, has been a volunteer at Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden for more than 25 years. He almost single-handedly maintains the Gamble cutting garden which provides fresh arrangements for the historic house and a variety of community organizations. Paul has also been a generous financial supporter of Gamble, mentor to garden interns and staff, and a constant presence in the garden. Courtesy Gamble Garden.



Japanese immigrants Eikichi and Sadakuni Enomoto pioneered chrysanthemum cultivation in Redwood City from 1907, pictured here rear center with their families. In 1913, Sadakuni Enomoto astounded the flower world by successfully shipping a carload of Turner Chrysanthemums to New Orleans for the famed All Saints Day Celebration. Courtesy San Mateo County Historical Association.

Spider mums (*Dendranthema x grandiflorum*), pictured right, are particularly valued across cultures. Named for their long narrow petals covering the entire face of the flower—and which resemble spider legs—the cut flowers can last up to 14 days. Courtesy SFGate.



Contemporary Texas football mums, still popular for high school homecoming displays in parts of the country. The displays are personalized and can reflect sports played, favorite hobbies and even boyfriends' names. Courtesy Texas Standard/NPR.

