GUIDELINES FOR CROP LOGS

Growers keep written or computerized records on each crop they grow. These records help them to improve quality, solve problems, plan for future crops, control insects and diseases, insure crops flower at the correct time, and estimate production costs. Good record keeping will make a grower’s life much easier and may make the difference between profit and loss. Few people are ‘natural’ record keepers; consequently, most of us must learn and practice.

Keep a log on all your plants from the date you receive the plants until they are graded. While logs can vary in format, it is usually best to list production factors A-J, quality factors, and environmental factors C-E on one or two sheets of paper. Production factors K and L and environmental factors A and B are best kept on a calendar. Keep the log for all days that school is in session, excluding weekends and school holidays. Logs should include the following items:

Production factors:
A. Location of crop in greenhouse and date placed in location.
B. Media used.
C. Planting date.
D. Emergence date.
E. Pinching date.
F. Date, amount, and type of growth regulator applicators.
G. Visible bud date.
H. Flowering date.
I. Shipping date (grading date).
J. Soil/foliar test results
K. Spacing and date placed at that spacing.
L. Watering dates.
M. Fertilization dates.

Quality Factors:
N. Average height.
O. Average plant diameter.
P. Average flower number (count or estimate).
Q. Average quality.

Environmental Factors:
R. Temperature in greenhouse.
S. Weather conditions (i.e. cloudy, rainy, sunny).
T. Date insects noticed and number seen.
U. Date diseases noticed and severity.
V. Date, amount, and type of pesticide applications.
W. Anything else that you notice. Comments for next year (What would you do differently next time?).