

# WSU Department of Horticulture Greenhouse

## Pullman, WA

### Hort 399-Spring 2014

### Julius Bush

#### Introduction:

My internship allowed me the opportunity to observe and help produce multiple greenhouse crops which resulted in a \$32,000 sale. Horticulture Club has this sale to provide funding for students to gain hands on greenhouse experience and observe the production process. Close to the start of the semester I mainly made sure that the greenhouse was clean, sowed seeds, and transplanted. After a little while I was able to plant them in bigger pots to promote growth. Finally once they matured and had color, they were ready for the sale. Documenting the timing for crop development is crucial in preparation for any sale. The sale is conducted by the WSU Horticulture Club and its purpose is to sell quality plants. I had the opportunity to help with the entire process of growing the plants in the greenhouse to setting up the sale and helping customers decide between our arrangements and bringing them to their car. Our arrangements included plants like salpiglossis, verbena, bacopa, scaevola, lobelia, geraniums, begonias, easy wave petunias, saliva, fuchsias, tomatoes, peppers, basal, canna, ivy geraniums, gypsophila, and hyacinths.

#### Responsibilities:

##### Greenhouse :

•Sanitation- Extremely important to prevent incidences of pests and diseases. Pests and pathogens can enter the greenhouse through dust, debris, humidity, irrigation, media and people.

•Monitor Plant Development- Timing of planting is crucial. This is done by using the catalogue and counting back from the date of the sale for however long it takes for the plant to be mature or in bloom.

•Labeling- Labeling must be done while the plants are in their vegetative stage otherwise with most plants they have no distinguishing characteristics. Another reason for labeling is if the plant isn't in bloom by the sale date, most labels have a picture of what the plant will look like so the customer will still make the purchase.

•Transplanting- Directly related to monitoring plant development and timing. Plants need to be transferred to bigger pots to continue vigorous growth habits; however we time the plants by making sure they only grow as fast as we want them to by manipulating light, temperature, and water/nutrients.

##### Sale:

- Load/unload Plants
- Set up tables around the coliseum
- Customer service-help customers select proper plants for house or outside, help take arrangements to their car, and finding carts for customers to put their plants one.



Salvia Red and Coral room



Start of semester when only seeds were on the benches



Geraniums (on bench) , Ivy geraniums and Begonia baskets (hanging) one week before the sale



Geraniums mid-way



Tomato and Salsa Bowls

#### Summary:

In a short span of 11 weeks I was able to learn almost all the skills needed to efficiently manage a greenhouse. Participating in this opportunity provided me the basic skills of managing a greenhouse and the ability to prepare for the industry by understanding plant quality/availability, time management, and consumer demands. The sale generated \$32,000 that will provide scholarships for the Horticulture Club members and will allow the club to continue to educate students interested in the horticultural industry.