

# **AN OVERVIEW OF PROPAGATION AT SKAGIT GARDENS**

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## **SUMMARY**

Skagit Gardens is a supplier of finished annuals and herbaceous perennials to retailers and smaller grades to other growers to grow and market. To offset the peak spring seasonal labour requirements other crops such as poinsettias and other propagated material are grown during the quieter times for sale in winter. This creates year round cash flow and reduces staff turnover. Producing quality plants and the ability to deliver when required are seen as important business objectives. Sales are achieved through buyers calling at the nursery and through brokers.

Mechanisation is occurring in all aspects of the nursery as it becomes affordable and justified. Production scheduling is now done by computer using specially designed software; bedding plant seeds are sown mechanically and germinated in growing rooms, which saves 3 to 4 weeks production time. Different environments are used for germination, growing, and holding plants before shipping. By only offering propagated material to other growers that Skagit Gardens uses in its finished program, we have increased flexibility in how the product is used; the interconnection between propagated material and the finished product is the key to success.