

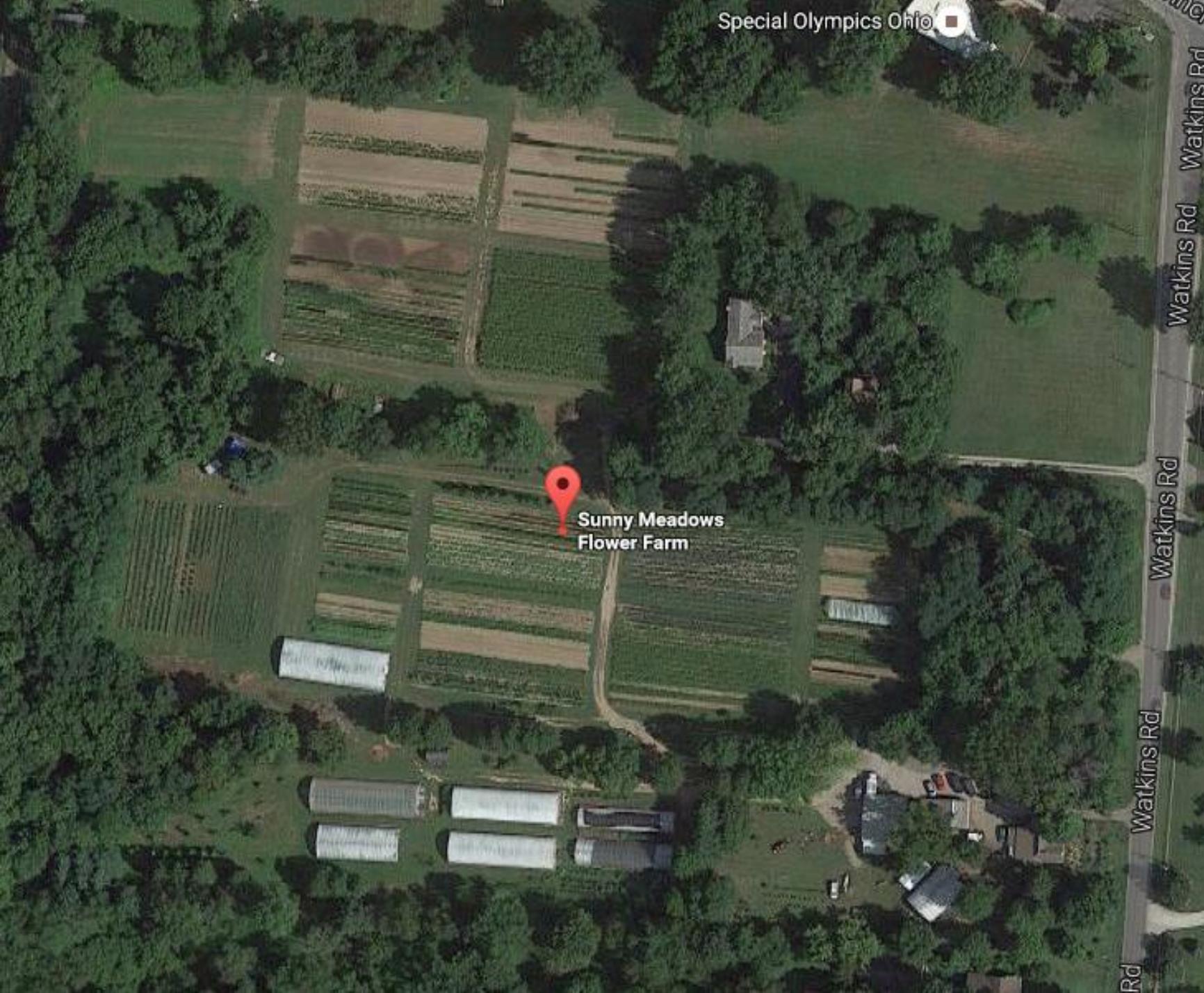


# POST HARVEST HANDLING

Gretel Adams  
Sunny Meadows Flower Farm

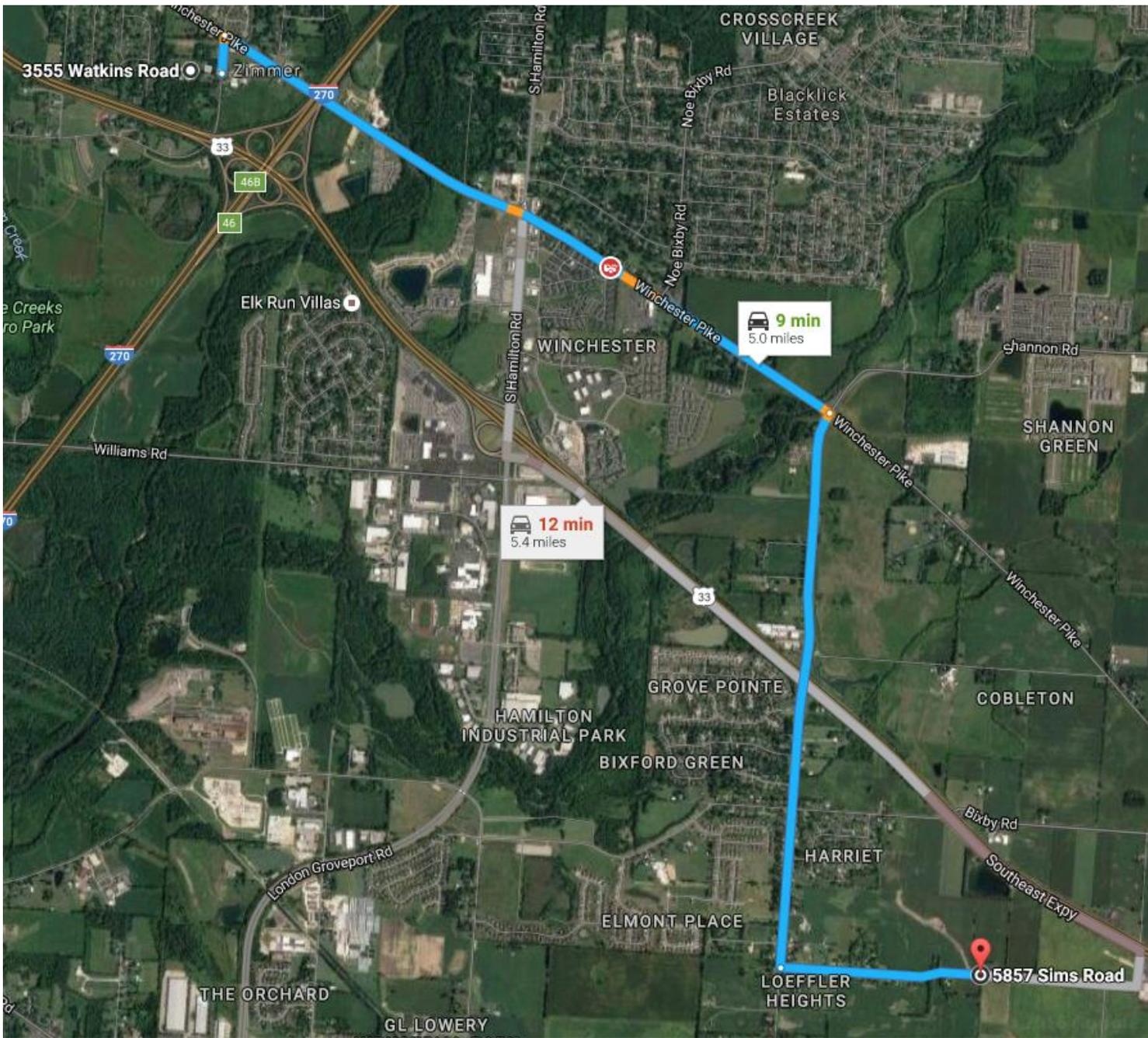


SO YOU CAN GROW  
IT, NOW WHAT?



- 11<sup>th</sup> year in business
- 17 seasonal employees in 2017, 4 through winter
- Farm on 3 plots- TOTAL 15 ACRES TILLABLE:
  - Home Farm: 1.5 acres tillable, 1 acre greenhouses and perennials
  - Rented adjacent field: 2.5 acres tillable
  - Rented Decker's Farm: 11 acres tillable
- Have a total of 6 acres in annual production this year, 4 acres in cover crop
- Mechanically cultivate
- 14 greenhouses- 6 unheated high tunnels
- Zone 6 a, so season is March-November

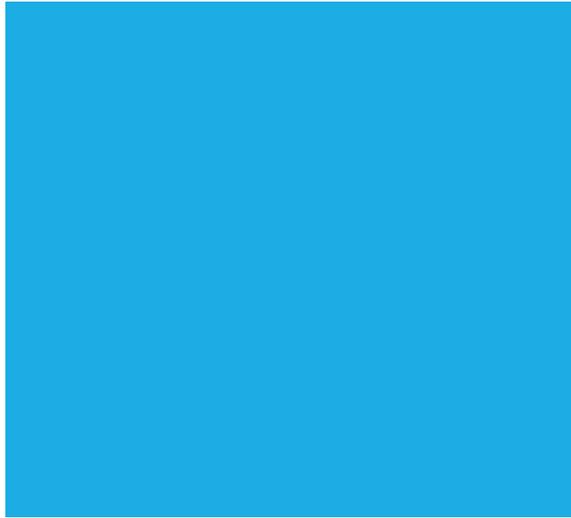




# What effects vase life?

- Ethylene
- Water
- Sanitation
- temperature (get a cooler- talk about coolbot)
- Disease: powdery mildew, botrytis.
- Carbohydrates maybe cutting at different time of day. We cut all AM, Cramers PM.





# Pre-harvest conditions

- Cultivar- Chief gold blooms before persimmon or red
- Light (mums need certain amount of daylight)
- Temperature- tulips and peonies can blow open in the heat, sometimes harvest multiple times a day.
- Nutrition
- Pests- can affect vase life.







# Harvest

- Developmental stage
  - Closed- lilies, tulips, irises, peonies. Can store in cooler tight. Chrysal bulb bag to feed foliage for lilies since long term harvest.
- Handling: dry, wet?
- Harvesting method.
  - One and done- celosia ball, snaps in gh.
  - Multi harvest crops.
  - Mow it down: celosia spike, gomphrena, frosted explosion





# Gomphrena

- Cut whole plant down
- Use in bouquets as multi stem
- Use chopper to cut off base, stick hand in there to get as much foliage as possible
- Can bunch 3-4 plants/ bunch for florists



# How much cooler space do you need?

- Go bigger than you think!
- Cool Bot with AC
- Think vertical
- Concrete= wheels







# Processing

- Geotropism
- Lay whole bucket on table instead of picking stems out of bucket
- Recut stems- guillotine chopper, knives
- Mechanical damage- pull off any crinkled petals
- Bunch for florists first, bouquet the rest













# Post harvest solutions

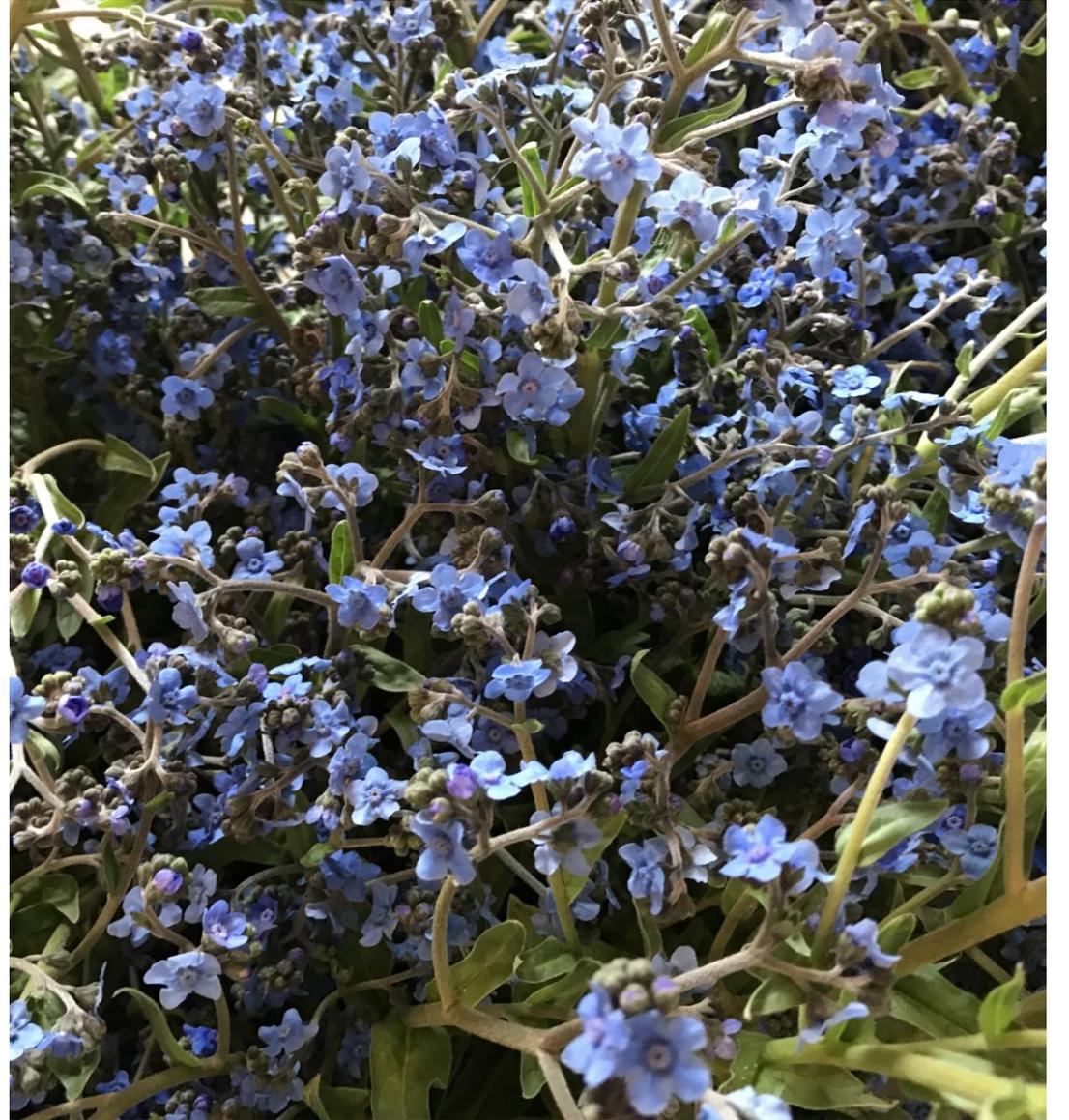
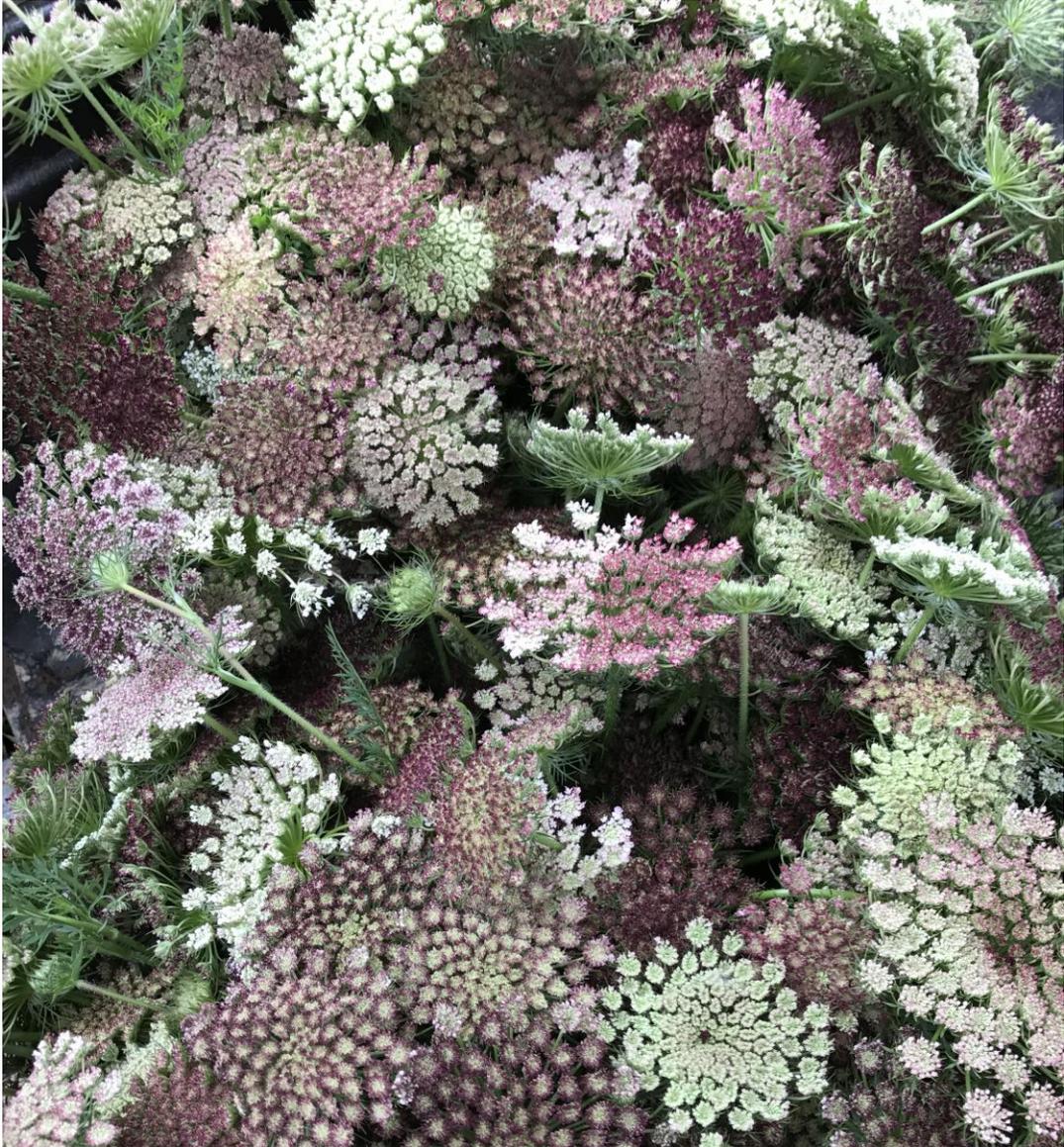
- Continues to open?
- Hard to hydrate?
- Short vase life?
- Chrysal we use:
  - Hydrator
  - #2
  - CVBN
  - Bulb bag



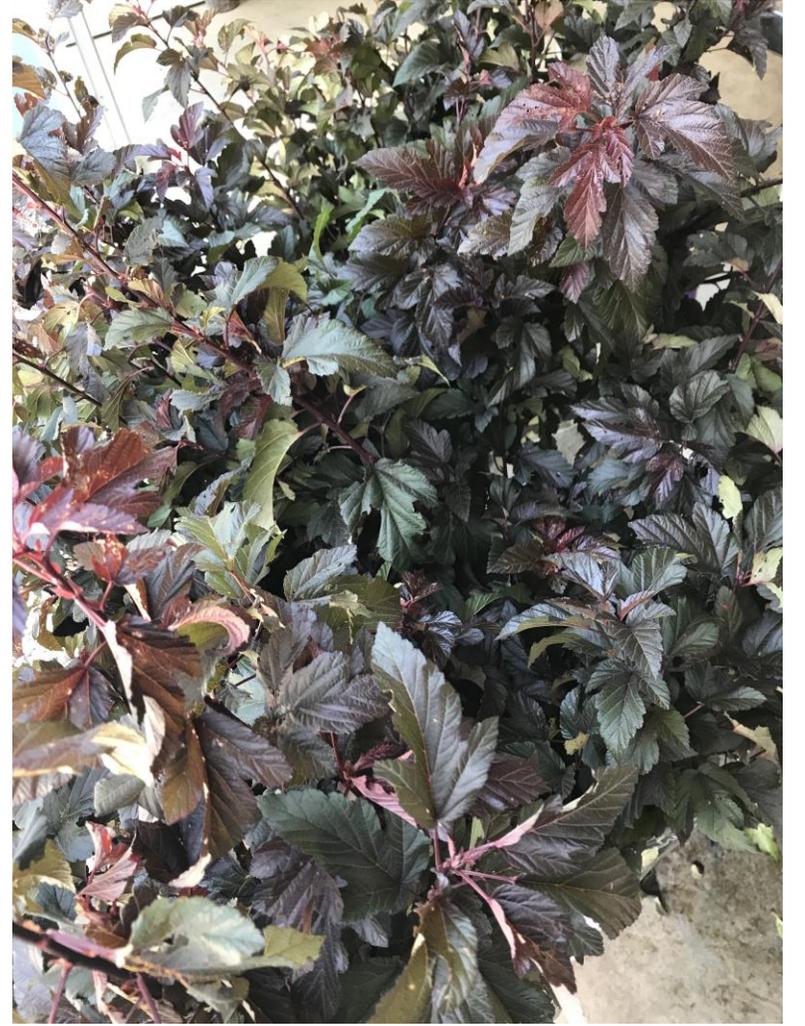
# Crops needing hydrator

- AM harvest
- Put in cooler immediately
- Ready to set on table for bouquets in PM
- Dusty
- Geraniums

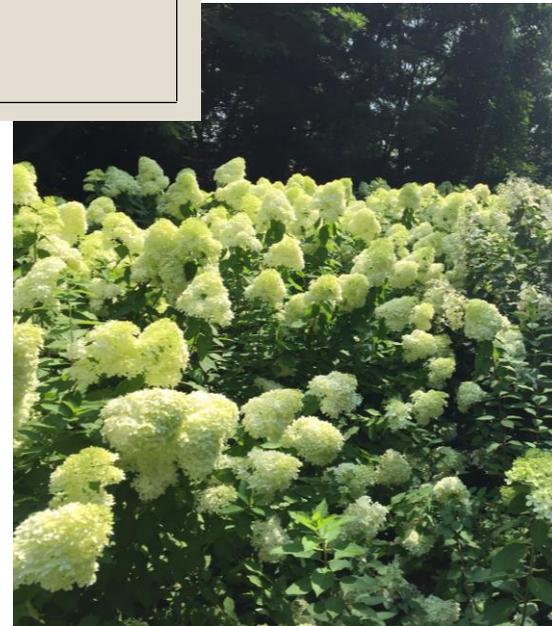
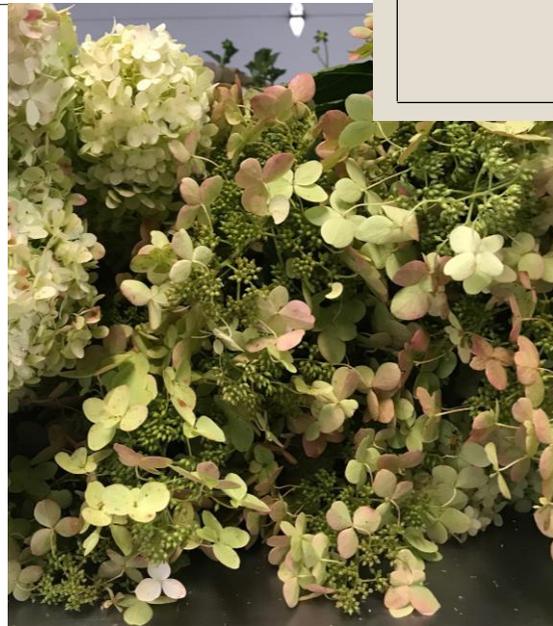












# WOODY PERENNIALS

All get hydrator, some also get QuickDip



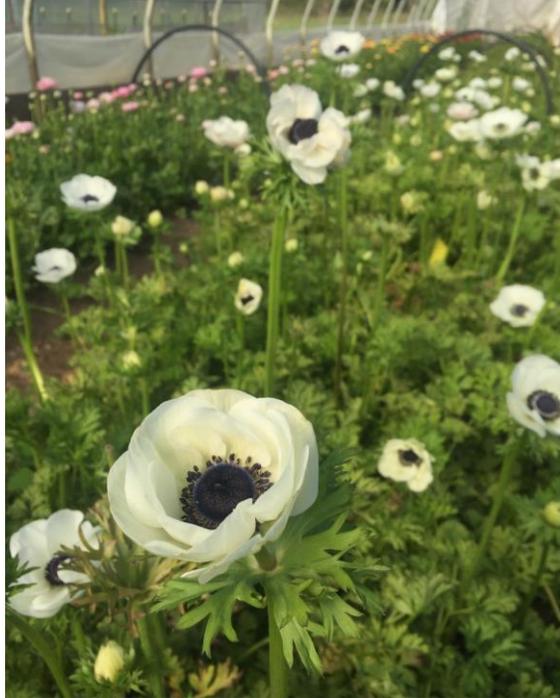


# Extra processing

- Oscar
- Pumpkin on a stick
- Ornamental Peppers
- Viney things- paper wrap
- Large woodies- large paper wrap







# THE SPRING GOODS

Anemones- moving away  
from green collar, opened a  
couple times. Close at night











# Zinnias

- Stem hard with wiggle test
- Little to no florets open in center of disk
- Clean buckets at each step
- Water test for pH
- CVBN pill







# Sweet peas

- Bunch while cutting
- Cut with foliage
- Or sell just foliage!









# Lisianthus

- Cut them tall and hard
- We bunch by bloom count
- Go through and cut back for even regrowth



# Dahlias









# Mums





# How to learn more

Visit our website for more resources  
[www.sunnymeadowsflowerfarm.com](http://www.sunnymeadowsflowerfarm.com)

Read our articles in Growing For Market.

Or consult with us for one-on-one  
information tailored to your needs.

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