LETTERS

CHRYSANTHEMUM VS. DENDRANHEMA

Anderson (1987) noted that Dendranthema grandiflora should replace Chrysanthemum morifolium as the scientific name for chrysanthemum. This type of change is generally greeted with apathy by most horticulturists. Nevertheless, since the cultivated chrysanthemum is a complex hybrid and was given the name Chrysanthemum × morifolium to reflect this hybrid origin (Bailey, 1976), should not the new name be Dendranthema × grandiflora?

Other important horticultural crops have similar names, including Petunia × hybrida, Pelargonium × hortorum, Pelargonium × domesticum, and Coleus × hybridus. Hortus Third justifies this treatment because “their hybrid origin involves other spp., and it is incorrect to treat them as derivatives of any single sp.” (Bailey, 1976, p. 295).

Literature Cited

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