



J&L Garden Center

*The All Season Gift
and Garden Center*

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www.JLGardenCenter.com

Chrysanthemums

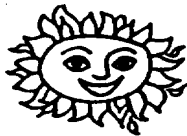
As the summer flowers start to fade because of heat, cold, and other problems, the fall flowers will start to flourish. During the fall season, chrysanthemums become the dominant show in the garden. Mums naturally bloom late in the season because they are short day plants. Long nights cause flowers to form in the fall. From late-August until snowfall, beautiful shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, bronze, pink or white will decorate your garden. Mums make wonderful garden plants and excellent cut flowers. Combined with fresh and dried materials they make beautiful fall decorations. Mums are easy to grow but if you neglect them they may produce weak stems, unattractive foliage, and only a few small flowers.

Hardy varieties of garden mums produce underground shoots or stolons so the plants persist from year to year. Potted florist chrysanthemums are generally killed by freezing, or they may bloom so late in the season the flowers are killed by frost. After the hardy mums finish blooming, cut the stems to the ground and clean up the fallen leaves. New shoots will start to grow late in the fall, so protect them from the frost by putting fresh mulch around them.



Planting

Plant mums in fertile, well drained soils with full sunshine. When planting mums in the fall, set the plants out at least six weeks before a killing frost. When planting in the spring, wait until after the last killing frost before planting them. Add one pound of **16-16-8 Multi-Purpose Fertilizer** per one hundred square feet of garden area, and an inch of **soil pep** over the entire area. Rototill the soil six to eight inches deep before planting. If you have a heavy clay soil, grow the mums in raised beds, in pots, or in berms. Chrysanthemum roots do not like to stay wet. Place them two feet apart. After planting, put mulch around the plants to help control weeds, to help keep your plants moist and to protect plants throughout the winter.



Fertilizing

Fertilize mums regularly until the plants are large and bushy. Apply one pound of **16-16-8 Multi-Purpose Fertilizer** per one hundred square feet every six to eight weeks during the spring; April to June. You can also give your plants a light application of **Fertilome Blooming and Rooting Fertilizer** every two or three weeks during the summer to help your plants develop even more flowers.



Be careful, too much nitrogen fertilizer will make the plants grow too fast, too tall and not bloom on time.

Trimming

Garden Mums When the plants are four to five inches tall pinch off the tip of each shoot. Do not remove side shoots as plants grow. Pinch the tips again when the new growth is another four or five inches long. Continue pinching the tips until July 10. Pinching the new growth stimulates more side shoots to develop. More shoots mean more flowers in the fall. It also means shorter, bushier plants.

Exhibition Mums If you are growing the tall, exhibition type chrysanthemum varieties, you do not want any side shoots. You do not want small bushy plants, or lots of flower buds. Remove the side shoots as soon as they start to grow. Remove all buds except the tip bud on each stem. Be careful not to disturb or damage the tip bud. Continue removing all unwanted buds all season, regularly. Let six to eight stems grow on each plant. To get the largest flowers possible only let three or four stems grow on each plant. As you can imagine, these types of chrysanthemums must be staked.



Blooming time

Chrysanthemums are short day plants. Actually mums need long nights to bloom, not short days. Mums naturally start to bloom in the fall as the nights become longer. Have you wondered why you can buy blooming mums in the spring and summer but your plants won't bloom then?



Mum growers can make chrysanthemums bloom anytime of the year they want just by changing the length of darkness. The growers “blackcloth” them to make them bloom when they want them to. Growers cover the plants with black plastic for twelve (uninterrupted) hours of darkness and remove the plastic for twelve hours of light. By repeating this process every day for five to eight weeks, depending on the variety they are trying to get to bloom, mums will start to form flower buds and will bloom during the *wrong time* of the year. Chrysanthemums have a very specific set of requirements they have to follow to get the plants to bloom when they want them to.



Picking flowers

Chrysanthemums make great cut flowers and will last for many days. Always harvest flowers early in the morning, or, late in the evening. Do not pick flowers during the heat of the day if you want them to last. Crush or split the stems when you put the flower stems in water. The crushed stem will be able to absorb water better and the flower will remain fresher longer.



Diseases

Mums are susceptible to various diseases. Although many do not kill the plants, they disfigure and make them unattractive. Diseases are best prevented by cultural practices, such as; Don't plant mums in wet or shady areas. Don't crowd plants. Promptly remove any diseased leaves, stems, or flowers, and destroy the affected parts.



Mildew covers the leaves with a grayish-white powder and is controlled by using **Funginex**, or **Systemic Fungicide**.

Rust causes small, brown blisters on the undersides of the leaves. The leaves curl and die. **Daconil** is the best control for this disease.

Budrot causes the growing tips and the affected buds to soften, turn brown and not open. **Daconil** is effective against budrot.

Verticillium wilt is a soil disease. The plants usually wilt, turn brown, become stunted, and produce few if any flowers. Remove and destroy infected plants because there is no chemical control for this disease. **Verticillium wilt** can persist in the soil for many years, and chemical control is not practical. Plant mums in a new location and avoid areas previously planted with tomatoes, potatoes, or petunias.

Stunted chrysanthemums are often the result of the “**asters yellows virus**”. **Asters yellows virus** is spread by leaf hoppers. The problem is not noticed until the plants are already affected, so spraying is



not effective. Remove and destroy stunted plants immediately.

Insect Problems

Aphids curl leaves and distort the plants and flowers. They live on the underside of the leaves and may be difficult to control. Use **Isotox**, **Eight**, **Malathion**, or an **Insecticidal soap** to control aphids.



Leaf miners are difficult to control, because they live between the surfaces of the leaves and make patterns inside the leaf. Use a systemic insecticide such as **Isotox** to control leaf miners.

Thrips cause distorted and discolored flowers. Flower buds may not fully open if they are affected by thrips. Thrips are best controlled with a systemic insecticide.

Spider mites are a problem on mums in hot, dry areas. Problems are reduced by washing the leaves with a strong stream of water. Spray with a miticide such as **Kelthane** or **Isotox**.



Spittle bugs as the name implies, look like small drops of spittle. The insects cause damage similar to aphids. They are controlled by washing with a strong stream of water and by using almost any garden insecticide.

Varieties

Single: They have daisy-like flowers with one to five long petals radiating from the central eye. They are available in a wide array of colors.



Pom Pom: They have small, stiff and globe shaped flowers. Many people call these button mums. There are only a few colors of these types of mums available.

Anemone: These have single daisy-like flowers with a rounded crest. The petals are usually deeper colored than the crest.

Decorative: These are the most common types of mums. The flowers are curved towards the center. They have multiple rows of petals and are available in almost any color you want.

Quills: The petals are long, tubular and straight, similar to the shape of a porcupines quill. Not many varieties are available with this type of flower.

Spoon: As the name suggests the petals are spoon-shaped. Not many of varieties of this type are hardy for this area.

Spider: The petals are long, tubular and have a hooked end. A few varieties are usually available.



Choose mums for the garden or for cut flowers. The beauty, the color and the practicality make them the greatest of the fall flowers.

Garden Mums

Variety	Color	Type	Height	Flower Time
Red & Bronze				
Bravo	Dark Red	Decorative	Short	Midseason
Buckeye	Red	Daisy	Tall	Mid to Late
Diablo	Red	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Denise	Light Bronze	Decorative	Medium	Late
Ginger	Two Tone Bronze	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Grace	Bronze	Daisy	Medium	Midseason
Mirage	Orange/Bronze	Button	Medium	Midseason
Ruby Mound	Crimson Red	Decorative	Short	Early to Mid
Sarah	Bronze	Spider	Short	Late
Shelley	Bronze	Pom Pom	Medium	Midseason
Lavendar				
Calypso	Purple	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Lancer	Lavendar	Spider	Tall	Midseason
Lynn	Two tone lavendar	Decorative	Short	Mid to late
Stargazer	Lavendar	Daisy	Short	Midseason
Sundoro	Rich Wine	Decorative	Medium	Mid to Late
Symphony	Dark Lavendar	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Tinker Bell	Purple	Decorative	Short	Midseason
Pink				
Barbara	Pink	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Debonair	Dark Pink	Decorative	Short	Early to Mid
Emily	Pink	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Grenadine	Coral-pink	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Megan	Pink	Daisy	Medium	Midseason
Naomi	Pink	Daisy	Medium	Midseason
Serenade	Rose-Coral	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
White				
Aspen	White	Daisy	Medium	Early to Mid
Baby Tears	White	Button	Short	Early to Mid
Ballerina	White	Spider	Tall	Late
Encore	White	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Linda	White	Decorative	Medium	Mid to Late
Nicole	White	Pom Pom	Short	Midseason
Tolima	White	Decorative	Short	Midseason
Yellow				
Allure	Bright Yellow	Daisy	Short	Midseason
Donna	Yellow	Daisy	Short	Midseason
Hawkeye	Medium Yellow	Daisy	Medium	Late
Jessica	Yellow	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
West Point	Light Yellow	Button	Short	Midseason
Yellow Nicole	Yellow	Decorative	Medium	Midseason
Yellow Sarah	Yellow	Decorative	Short	Late

Beginning of Blooming Season

Early Late August to Early September

Midseason Mid-September

Late Late September to early October