



Growing Garden Mums



PLANTING

Plant young plants in a sunny location (at least a half-day sun) in fertile, well-drained soil. Soils can be improved by adding compost and other organic matter. Flowering plants can be placed in any location where a splash of color is desired, but will grow best in sunny location. A 2-3 inch layer of the mulch of your choice around the plants will protect them from heat and cold plus conserve water.

WATERING

1" of rain or irrigation per week is sufficient to keep your garden mums growing well. During dry spells, and in containers, water as needed to keep plants from wilting. Always thoroughly water-in any freshly planted garden mums.

FERTILIZING

During the growing season, use organic fertilizer such as Plant-tone™ once per month or a liquid fertilizer such as Miracle Gro™ every 2-3 weeks. If planting in the fall, no fertilizer is needed until they begin to grow the following spring.

PINCHING

To encourage branching and development of compact bushy plants, it is very important to pinch back your garden mums in the spring as soon as the new growth is 4-6 inches tall. Use your thumbnail and index finger to remove or "pinch" about 1/2 of the new growth at the top of each and every shoot. Repeat this procedure through the summer whenever new shoots are 3 to 5 inches long. Stop pinching around July 15th.

WINTER PROTECTION

- Keep your garden mums' soil moist as winter approaches.
- There is no need to prune back plants until the following spring until the following spring.
- If you haven't already mulched, mulch around the plants after several hard frosts with the mulch of your choice. (But avoid using freshly chipped wood or fresh sawdust.)
- In the spring, remove any old garden mum stems (a rake works fine) and make sure mulch isn't sitting right over the crown of the plant.

VERSATILE MUMS - Mums can be used in several ways in the garden!

BEDDING PLANTS - Garden are superb for use as specimens in foundations plantings, massed in beds or grouped in plantings or 3 or 5 for colorful and dramatic focal points in the landscape. Versatile garden mums can be planted either as young plants in the spring or as flowering plants in the fall.

HANGING BASKETS - Beautiful garden mum hanging baskets are the talk of any neighborhood or building they decorate. They add a finishing touch to any landscape.

PATIO PLANTS - Since mums grow into wonderful mounds of flowers, they are perfect for use in containers. Use garden mums on patios, decks, front door steps, in window boxes and by the pool. Garden mums are easily planted while in bud and in bloom into urns, barrels and other attractive containers and they mix well with other plants such as those in the Fall Magic™ line, as well as ornamental peppers, sedge grass, creeping jenny, and pansies.