



## garden mums



'Bravo Red'  
Photo: Syngenta Flowers • GoldFisch Vegetative

### BOTANICAL NAME

*Dendranthema X grandiflorum*

(den-DRAN-thuh-muh  
grand-i-FLOOR-um)

syn: *Chrysanthemum X morifolium*

### COMMON NAMES

Garden chrysanthemum/mum

Hardy chrysanthemum/mum

### DESCRIPTION

Garden (or hardy) mums have densely massed, 1-to-2-foot-diameter clusters of blooms. Bloom types include decorative (incurved or reflexed), cushion, aneome, daisy, pompon (ball), button, spider, single quilled and spoon petaled. Garden mums typically attain heights from 7 to 24 inches. Stems are leafy and usually branched near the top, with multiple flower clusters at the end of each.

### COLORS

Hues include white, cream, red, brown, bronze, butterscotch, red-orange, orange, yellow, pink, lavender, purple and red-

violet, as well as bicolors.

### DECORATIVE LIFE

These plants can flower for several weeks, usually in the fall, but they can also flower in the spring, depending on variety and temperate zone. Many gardening authorities recommend not allowing garden mums to flower in the spring, advocating, instead, pinching off new growth from early July through mid-August, depending on hardiness zone, to encourage branching, increase the number of flowers, and keep plants compact and mound shaped.

### AVAILABILITY

Garden mums are generally available from July through October, depending on region.

### outdoor and consumer care

**LIGHT** These plants grow best in full sun (at least 6 hours a day); however, because fall garden mums are in bloom when sold, they can tolerate light shade. If customers intend to keep these plants as perennials, they must be planted in sunny locations.

**WATER** Water garden mum plants thoroughly when soil feels dry to the touch. Never allow plants to wilt. Check mums in containers daily because they can dry out quickly. Water newly planted mums daily during the first week, then two or three times per week. Established plants in the ground should be fine with natural rainfall, but in droughts, supplemental watering is needed.

**FERTILIZER** Feed garden mums set out in the spring once or twice a month through July with a general purpose fertilizer. Don't feed plants set out in the fall and intended as annuals; however, if you hope to overwinter them, fertilize the plants with a high-phosphorous fertilizer to stimulate root growth.

**GROWING MEDIA** These plants require well-drained soils amended with organic

matter. In sandy soils, work a 3- to 4-inch layer of peat or compost into the top 6 inches of soil.

**WINTERIZING** To prepare garden mums for winter in cold climates, pinch or snip off dead blooms after the first hard frost or freeze, but leave branches intact. This will increase the plants' chances of surviving a cold winter. Mulch around these plants with up to 4 inches of straw, wood chips, evergreen boughs or leaves.

*Note:* Even with proper mulching, hardy garden mums sometimes can die during the winter. In early spring (late March to early April), prune the previous year's stems and remove mulch to allow for the production of new stems and leaves. In warmer climes, prune old growth in late winter (early to mid-March).

Garden mums planted in the spring tend to be more winter hardy than those planted in August, September and October because they have more time to get established before winter.

**REBLOOMING** Garden mums are perennial plants, so, with the exception of those planted in extremely cold climates, they should

reflower every year—generally in the fall but, in temperate regions, sometimes in the spring, too (see "Decorative Life," above, and "Pruning/Shaping," next).

**PRUNING / SHAPING** From mid- to late spring (April or May, as soon as you see a good flush of new growth, including budded stems), through early to mid-July (in the North) and late July to mid-August (in the South), pinch or snip off the top 2 to 3 inches of every stem each time new growth reaches 6 or so inches (about every two to four weeks). This will produce full rounded domes of blooms and keep plants compact.

**BIENNIAL MAINTENANCE** Divide garden mums grown as perennials every two years, after the last hard frost in the spring and when you see new growth beginning. Dig up the plants, and separate outer pieces from the center with a clean, sharp spade or large knife. Replant the outer portions, and discard the original center of the plant.

### challenges

**PESTS** Although garden mums are relatively pest tolerant, aphids, spider mites,

leafhoppers and other insects can infest. Control them with pesticides.

**DISEASES** Leaf blight, *Botrytis* (gray mold), powdery mildew, rust and other diseases and funguses can cause yellow, brown and black spots on leaves. Avoid soaking the foliage, and prune the affected parts.

**FOLIAGE YELLOWING/WILTING** Causes include improper light, watering and/or fertilization.

## garden mums versus florist mums

Garden (or hardy) mums and florist mums come from the same parents, but garden mums are hybridized to produce underground stolons (shoots or roots that produce new growth), which enable them to better survive cold weather. Florist mums, which are grown in greenhouses and bred primarily for use as indoor houseplants, produce few, if any, underground stolons.

## fun facts

**WHAT'S IN A NAME** The genus name "*Dendranthema*" comes from the Greek words *dendron* (tree) and *anthos* or *anthemon* (flower), in reference to these plants' somewhat woody stems. "*Chrysanthemum*" is from the Greek words *chrysos* (golden) and *anthos* or *anthemon* (flower). The species names "*grandiflorum*" and "*morifolium*" mean large flowered and leaves like mulberry, respectively. The "X" in the botanical name means the plant is a hybrid of at least two different species.

**FAMILY MATTERS** Chrysanthemums are members of the huge Asteraceae (*Compositae*) family. Close relatives include *Gerberas*, *Dahlias*, *Calendulas*, *Zinnias*, marigolds, marguerites, sunflowers, China asters and many more.

**HOME SWEET HOME** These plants are native to China and Japan.

**ROYAL TIES** In the fifth century, the chrysanthemum became the emblem of Japan's imperial family. The Chrysanthemum Throne is the common term for the Imperial Throne of Japan, the oldest continuing hereditary monarchy in the world (2,700 years, 125 monarchs).



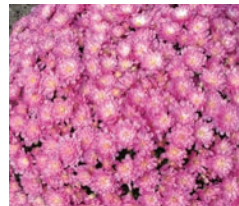
'Chelsey White'



'Chelsey Yellow'



'Chelsey Coral'



'Jacqueline Pink'



'Chelsey Pink'



'Gigi Coral', 'Gigi Orange' and 'Gigi Yellow'



'Gigi Coral', 'Gigi Dark Pink' and 'Gigi Snow'

Do you need a quick and easy reference for information about other blooming plants?



Designed to fit on your countertop, desk or design bench, **Plant Flip — A Guide to 50 Favorite Plants** provides at-a-glance information about the top 25 flowering plants as well as the 25 most popular foliage plants—all in a handy 5.5" x 6.5" flip-chart format.

FRPF0412 \$12.95

Order Online

To order, visit [www.superfloralretailing.com](http://www.superfloralretailing.com) and click on "Bookstore," or call (800) 355-8086. (To discuss quantity purchases and pricing, ask for Mary Lou Clark, ext. 12.)



'Jacqueline Yellow Improved', 'Jacqueline Pink Fusion' and 'Jacqueline Orange Fusion'



'Jacqueline Pearl', 'Jacqueline Pink' and 'Jacqueline White'



'Gigi Orange', 'Gigi Dark Pink' and 'Gigi Gold'



'Jacqueline Pink Fusion', 'Jacqueline Peach Fusion' and 'Jacqueline Orange Fusion'

Photos: Syngenta Flowers - Yoder Mums **sfr**