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HARDY GARDEN MUMS



WHEN TO PLANT

Garden mums can be planted in the spring and in the fall. In spring, you will plant a little green plant in bud or bloom sometime after Easter (weather permitting). After the plant flowers, cut it back to allow the plant to grow throughout the summer and it will flower again in the fall.

In the fall, plant garden mums that show large buds just ready to open. These plants generally come in 4", 6" or 10" pots. The reason for planting mums about to bloom as opposed to plants in bloom, is that there is more time to enjoy the flowering of the plant. There is also more time for the plant to grow new roots and get established before winter sets in. If plants are bought in the green bud stage, there should be a color label to tell variety name and flower color.

WHERE TO PLANT

Garden mums need a sunny exposure. Planting them in shady locations will produce weak growth.

HOW TO USE GARDEN MUMS

Create a display of color in the middle of a large grassy area or use mums to outline a walkway. Highlight a shrub foundation by planting mums in front for a mass of color. A garden mum can be planted in an outdoor container for use as an accent. One of the most successful uses is in a perennial garden where summer flowers offer color while chrysanthemum leaves provide a fine green texture before they have their turn to flower. The garden mum is a season-spanning plant.

SHOULD COLORS BE MIXED IN THE SAME BED?

Plant your mums so that they please you. We find that planting the same color and the same flower shape together for a mass of color and then changing to another color and shape for another spread of color and texture really delights the eye. Generally, the more mums planted, the better the show.

SHOULD GARDEN MUMS BE TRIED IN A SMALL AREA?

The size of the outdoor space does not affect your growing success with mums. Some of the varieties we offer have a compact growth habit on purpose, just for smaller areas. You might want to try one of these if you have limited space. The plant labels will provide information about mature size.

WILL GARDEN MUMS COME BACK NEXT YEAR?

A garden mum is generally tough enough to survive the winter. Like roses, winter survival is not guaranteed. Greater variation in winter conditions make the mums more susceptible to winter kill. Severe freezing and thawing is more likely to kill a garden mum than continually frozen ground. Mulch can help. When plants are done blooming in the fall, do not cut back as was once recommended; they stand a better chance of surviving the winter if not pruned. Once the soil freezes, apply hay or evergreen mulch. When spring arrives, gradually remove the mulch from around the plants. It is important to remove the mulch as plants can smother once the weather warms. After your second year of bloom, it is wise to divide your garden mum clumps. This means you will have plenty of little plants to landscape another part of your garden or to share with friends. But just a word... try to remember what color and flower type they are when you move them.

WHAT TO DO WHEN MUMS TRY TO BLOOM IN SUMMER

Whenever new shoots are four to six inches long, the top 1/2" to 1" growth should be pinched off or cut cleanly with garden shears. This encourages branching and makes the plants shorter, fuller and stronger. The best part is that pinching makes more flowers. You are not hurting the plant. They may be pinched back up until the end of July.



***Making the world beautiful
one flower at a time.***