



## Garden Mums



### Tips for Successfully Growing Garden Mums

- **Plant early** – The earlier the better! Mums planted in August to early September have a much better chance of rooting in the ground than those planted later.
- **Remove the pot** – Although we plant in fiber pots which decompose over time, the sooner the mum can root into the ground the better it will thrive.
- **Plant in a well-drained, sunny spot** – Mums prefer soil that drains well to eliminate root rot. They also like plenty of sun to grow larger and bloom more.
- **Water regularly** – If mums are planted and then continually stressed (such as wilting before they are watered), the chances decrease for active root growth in the ground.
- **Cut back after blooming** – Once your mum is done blooming, it can be cut back to about half of its original plant size.
- **Mulch for over-wintering** – A layer of mulch, such as straw or pine needles or boughs, at the end of Autumn, helps hold moisture. This prevents plant drought and aids in preventing some of the freeze/thaw/freeze cycle damages of Michigan winters.

### Tips for Next Spring

- **Dividing mums** - If you wish to do any dividing of mums, the earlier the better. When you see 3"-4" of green growth, carefully use a spade type shovel to split the plant.
- **Fertilize regularly** - Mums are heavy feeders; therefore, a water-soluble fertilizer, such as Jack's Classic, applied at 200-300 ppm on a weekly to biweekly basis is recommended.
- **Pinch back** – Pinching a mum back will create a nice, compact rounded mum. Have you ever seen mums that grew to over 3 feet high and toppled over when they started to bloom? If so, they probably were never pruned. Apply the first pinch when the mum is 6" – 8" tall. Then continue to pinch about every 3 weeks until around July 4. Stop pinching after July 4 and let it grow.

### Chrysanthemums – Garden Mums

You will notice Chrysanthemums are no longer sold as "hardy mums" and are instead called "garden mums". The reason for the change is due to the extensive breeding programs of the mum cutting producers. While these companies breed newer and fancier colors/flowers, we believe that some of the "hardiness" of the mum has been sacrificed. Remember, we live in a state where the weather can be extreme. A freeze/thaw/freeze cycle can bring about the death and/or decline of any perennials. Therefore, Boehler's **cannot guarantee** that garden mums will over-winter.