



Garden Mums

A Few Tips for Garden Mum Success...

Plant Early-the earlier the better! Mums planted in August-early September have a much better chance of “rooting in” than those planted later.

Remove the Pot-although we plant in fiber pots that will decompose over time, the sooner the mum can root into the ground the better.

Plant in a well-drained, sunny spot.

Water on Time-once again, if mums are planted and then are continually stressed (wilt before they are watered), the chances of active root growth into the ground go down.

Mulch for over-wintering-a layer of mulch at the end of autumn, such as straw or pine boughs, helps hold moisture (preventing drought of the plant) and also aids in preventing some of the freeze/thaw consequences of Michigan winters.

Once your mum is done blooming it can be cut back to about half of its original plant size.

Tips for next spring

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.

Mums are heavy feeders, a water soluble fertilizer such as *Jack's Classic* applied at 200-300ppm on a weekly to biweekly schedule is recommended.

Apply hard pinches-pinching a mum back will give you a nice compact rounded mum (do you remember seeing mums that got 3 1/2 feet high that topple over when they start to bloom??-they probably were never pruned!) The first pinch can be applied when the mums are 6-8” tall, then continue to pinch about every 3 weeks until around July 4th, stop pinching your plant at that point and let it grow!

Chrysanthemums-Garden Mums

What's in a name?

You will notice that the chrysanthemums are no longer sold as “hardy mums”. Now we use the term “garden mums”. The reason for the change has been 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, too, that we live in a state where weather can be extreme! A freeze/thaw/freeze cycle can bring about the death and/or decline of any perennial! Therefore, **Boehler's cannot guarantee that garden mums will over winter.**