

## Hardy Mum, Chrysanthemum

Genus: Chrysanthemum, Denthranthemea

Family: Asteraceae

Home: Asia and northeastern Europe

Flowering period: Late Summer /fall

The hardy mum or garden mum was first cultivated in China in the 15<sup>th</sup> century for herbal use (antibacterial, antimycotic). The plant came to us in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1961 the formerly known Denthranthemea was separated into several unique genuses.

Correct genuses for Garden mums are:

Dendranthema - garden mums

Leucanthemum - oxeye daisies, Shasta daisies

Tanacetum - feverfew, painted daisies, tansy

Mums prefer a sunny and dry location; allow them at least a half day of sun exposure. There are many varieties and hardiness ranges from zone 3 to zone 9. Plant mum in spring in rich soil, when planting in fall do not cut back till spring, branches will protect roots in winter. Additionally protect the mum in cold climates by mulching the plant and protection from cold winds. There is no guarantee that a mum planted in fall will survive the winter, because it had no time to establish a healthy root system.

After cutting back in spring begin to fertilize and start pinching back tips every three to four when plant is at least 6 inches tall, this will encourage a bushy growth (The average growths of a mum is 12 to 24 inches). Continue this care till beginning of July in colder climates. In warmer climates continue till end of July. Mums set buds in response to day length. Avoid locations close to streetlamp and motion lights.

Hardy mums should be divided every two to three years in spring to control their spreading.

