

Chrysanthemum

Garden mums (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium*) give us a burst of color in the fall when used to replace the annuals we have enjoyed since spring. Mums provide color until freezing weather arrives.



Barbara H. Smith, ©2015 HGIC, Clemson Extension

Chrysanthemums are popular for fall displays. The 'Viviana Yellow' Belgian Mum® (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium* Belgian Mum® 'Viviana Yellow') has bright yellow flowers. Barbara H. Smith, ©2015 HGIC, Clemson Extension

Height/Spread

Mums grow between 1½ to 3 feet tall depending on cultivar, growing conditions and whether they are pinched regularly during the growing season.

Growth Rate

Garden mums are hardy perennials throughout South Carolina, although many people treat them as short-season, fall-planted annuals. Chrysanthemums grown as perennials will spread rapidly. They should be divided every year or two.

Ornamental Features

Garden chrysanthemums are valued for their intense color display at the end of the growing season. Flowers are available in many forms and colors

range from pure white to yellow, bronze, pink and lavender, coral and salmon, purple, and deep burgundy red.

Problems

Disease problems can include powdery mildew, Botrytis blight, aster yellows, leaf spots, viruses and foliar nematodes. Insects that commonly infest chrysanthemums are aphids, thrips and spider mites. For information on chrysanthemum pests and diseases, consult [HGIC 2101, *Chrysanthemum Diseases & Insect Pests*](#).

Landscape Use

Chrysanthemums prefer fertile, highly organic, well-drained soil in full sun. Mature plants set in a shady area will give nice color the first year but do very poorly the following year.



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Chrysanthemums come in a variety of colors, such as the 'Conaco Orange' Belgian Mum® (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium* Belgian Mum® 'Conaco Orange'). Barbara H. Smith, ©2015 HGIC, Clemson Extension

The right amount of water is vital to success with chrysanthemums. Too little water will slow their growth or stop it completely. Mums especially need plenty of water when they bloom. Give plenty of water to field-grown mums to prevent wilting until they re-establish a good root system.

Mums are heavy feeders. A weekly application of soluble fertilizer is a good practice. Mulch will help retain soil moisture, control weeds and improve appearance.

Chrysanthemums can be planted in the fall or in early spring. Spring planted mums will give a more robust, full plant for the fall landscape. Pinch the tip growth of spring-planted mums regularly to cause them to branch and bloom well. Remove the top ½ to 1 inch of new growth about every four weeks from the time the plant is 6 inches tall until early July in the upper piedmont and mountains, up to early August at the coast.

Cultivars

Chrysanthemums are classified according to shape and arrangement of petals. The major types of hardy mums include the following.

- Daisies or Singles have daisy-like flowers with yellow centers.
- Anemones are like single mums but with a rounded crest of deeper color.
- Decoratives have double or semi-double flowers and usually grow to over 18 inches tall.
- Pompons have small ball-shaped flowers, on plants that are usually under 18 inches tall.
- Cushion mums are not a flower form but a name used for early-flowering, low, bushy mums.

These are just a few of the many cultivars available:

White-flowered Cultivars

- 'Chablis' is an early flowering, white decorative with a creamy center.
- 'Encore' is a formal late decorative with white flowers.
- 'Linda' is a late-season white decorative with excellent flower form.
- 'Patriot' is a pure white, mid-late season pompon with a spreading plant habit.
- 'Mabel White' Belgian Mum® has early season white flowers.



The 'Margo White' Belgian Mum® (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium* Belgian Mum® 'Margo White') has white flowers with yellow centers.

Barbara H. Smith, ©2015 HGIC, Clemson Extension

- 'Margo White' Belgian Mum® is an early season white bloomer with good color retention.
- 'Tracy' is a very late white double daisy with a spreading growth habit.

Yellow-flowered Cultivars

- 'Allure' is a mid-season, bright yellow daisy with a green eye. It has a cushion growth habit and tolerates high temperatures.
- 'Atlantico Yellow' Belgian Mum® is a midseason bright yellow mum.
- 'Conella Yellow' Belgian Mum® has vivid yellow flowers. It is a midseason bloomer.
- 'Jessica' is a midseason, bright yellow decorative with long-lasting flowers.
- 'Viviana Yellow' Belgian Mum® is a midseason bright yellow daisy with a yellow center.
- 'Yellow Sarah' is a late-blooming, yellow quilled decorative. Excellent growth habit.
- 'Yellow Jacket' is a prolific and very uniform daisy with an excellent habit.

Bronze Cultivars

- 'Cheyenne' is a large, mid-season, bronze decorative with a button-like texture.
- 'Conaco Orange' Belgian Mum® flowers mid-season with large, decorative orange blooms.
- 'Denise' is a very late season, large, pastel bronze decorative with a mounding habit.

- 'Eclipse' is a mid-season peaches and cream decorative with a compact and spreading habit.
- 'Flame' is a spectacular flame-orange mid-season daisy with large flowers. It is compact and uniform.
- 'Oriole' is a late burnt orange daisy that is extremely long-lasting.

Pink & Purple Cultivars

- 'Barbara' is a late-small, purple pompon.
- 'Bordeaux' has burgundy-red flowers with neat, semi-tube petals in mid-early season.
- 'Cabernet' Late-season lavender decorative. Flowers up to 3 inches in diameter; one of the largest-flowered garden mums available.
- 'Debonair' is a lavender decorative with a durable spreading habit.
- 'Lynn' is a two-tone lavender decorative with purple centers surrounded by lavender petals.
- 'Tinkerbelle' is an intense purple decorative. It is early strong and compact.
- 'Stargazer' is a dark lavender daisy with an excellent habit. It is sensitive to overwatering and poor drainage.
- 'Tripoli' is a very late blooming, vibrant pink daisy with golden yellow center.

Coral & Salmon Flowered Cultivars

- 'Grenadine' is a popular, early coral decorative with a compact habit. The flower color fades under warm conditions.
- 'Radiant Lynn' has a decorative flower form with salmon-pink outer petals surrounded by raspberry tinged center petals.
- 'Serenade' is a vibrant rose-coral decorative with large flowers. It blooms earlier than 'Grenadine'.

Red Flowered Cultivars

- 'Bravo' has dark red decorative flowers on strong, compact plants.

- 'Garnet' is a formal mid-season red pompon. Flowers are bright crimson, maturing to bronze.
- 'Ruby Mound' is a maroon-red early decorative with large flowers.
- 'Pavia Red' Belgian Mum® features dark red decorative flowers. It is a late season bloomer.
- 'Salsa' is a red daisy with a light green eye and a mounding growth habit.



The 'Savona' Belgian Mum® (*Chrysanthemum x morifolium* Belgian Mum®) 'Savona' has dark red, long lasting flowers. Barbara H. Smith, ©2015 HGIC, Clemson Extension

- 'Savona' Belgian Mum® is midseason decorative dark red with long lasting flowers.

Revised by Barbara H. Smith, HGIC Horticulture Agent, Clemson University, 10/15. Originally prepared by Karen Russ, HGIC Horticulture Specialist, and Bob Polomski, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Clemson University New 03/99. Images added 10/15.

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