



Chrysanthemum (*Mum*)

Angie Litchy, UMN Extension Crow Wing County Master Gardener Volunteer

Chrysanthemum (Mum) is a rapidly growing herbaceous perennial. The aromatic showy flowers come in many colors from shades of brown to vibrant yellows. Flower heads may range in size and petal layers. Mums will extend color to your gardens into the fall. They are great for edging, borders, containers, and cut flowers. The University of Minnesota has developed numerous winter hardy varieties.

Type	Perennial
Hardiness Zone	5 - 9; verify plant hardiness zone as some may survive in zone 4
Sun	Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day)
Bloom Time	September to frost
Height	1' - 3'
Spread	2' - 3'
Tolerance	Drought tolerant
Attracts	Butterflies
Additional Features	Deer resistant, rabbit resistant Caution: May cause contact dermatitis in humans. May also cause problems for cats, dogs and horses

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: good drainage
- Soil pH: 6.5
- Type: humus, fertile, consistently moist
- Other: work soil to a depth of 8 - 12 inches, mix in 2 - 4 inches of organic material

Planting Recommendations

- Type: seeds, cutting, division, and established plants
- When to plant: spring
- Depth of planting: match depth in the original container
- Mulching: 4" of straw or evergreen boughs to help survive winter
- Spacing: follow recommendations based on the variety
- Spread: 2' - 3'
- Division/transplant tips: divide in spring every 2 - 3 years

Maintenance

- Watering: medium
- Fertilization: slow-release fertilizer after planting
- Pinching/deadheading: pinch several times in late spring and early summer to promote bushy vegetative growth
- Annual maintenance: pinch back 3 times during spring and early summer; cover winter hardy varieties, tender varieties may be dug up and overwintered if desired

Common Problems

Disease: Botrytis, leaf spots, rust, powdery mildew, stem and root rots, verticillium wilt, and aster yellows

Insects: Aphids, thrips, and spider mites

Resources

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chrysanthemum-x-morifolium/>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=f223>

<https://mnhardy.umn.edu/varieties/flowers/chrysanthemums>

Questions or problems: What's wrong with my plant for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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Hardy Yellow Quill Mum



Purple Mum