

Chrysanthemums

There are hundreds of varieties with a wide range of flower types and colors of this popular late summer to fall-blooming perennial plant. While many gardeners treat mums as annuals to provide quick fall color, here are some tips for growing them as perennials:

- Choose hardy varieties. Florists' mums will not survive Wisconsin winters.
- Plant in spring to give more time to establish the roots, or as early in the fall as possible.
- Plant in full sun and moist, well-drained soil.
- Fertilize monthly during the growing season.
- Mulch with straw, marsh hay or evergreen boughs *after* the ground freezes to improve winter survival.
- Mums usually come up late in the spring.
- Pinch off the terminal shoots when 6-8" tall. Pinch again every 6-8" to promote branching and increase the number of flowers. Continue pinching until July 4th.



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Additional Resources

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- UW-Extension Publication A1646, *Mums for Fall Beauty — Tips on Growing Chrysanthemums*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Mums-for-Fall-BeautyTips-on-Growing-Chrysanthemums-P368.aspx>
- Iowa State University Extension brochure, *Growing Chrysanthemums in the Home Garden*, at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG305.pdf>

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