

How to Grow Chrysanthemum



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About Chrysanthemum

The ancient Greeks combined the words chryso (golden) and anthemion (flower) to create the name Chrysanthemum. Most people simply call them “mums,” which works just as well because today we have many colorful varieties of this wildly popular plant. The hardest part about growing Chrysanthemums is deciding which type you want in your garden. Most mums bloom from late summer to fall, but depending on your climate and the variety of mum, they can bloom from April until November.



Mums can be started as seeds, from cuttings and dividing, or can be purchased at a nursery in sizes from bedding plants up to gallon size and larger plants. They should be planted into well prepared, fertile, sandy soil. Mums resent ‘wet feet’ so the hole should be dug extra deep.

How to Plant Chrysanthemums:

1. Start your mum seeds indoors at least 6 weeks before the last frost.
2. Vermiculite. Either soil type will work; the important thing to remember is that the soil mixture you use should be well-draining.
3. Fill a shallow seed tray 2/3 full with your soil mixture (you can also use individual peat cups, but mum seeds are very tiny and easier to sow in a tray.)
4. Moisten the soil until it is damp but not soggy; a spray bottle works best.



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5. Sprinkle the seeds on top of the soil so that they are evenly distributed. Don't cover them with soil because they will need light to germinate.
6. Spray the seeds with a gentle, fine mist. For best results, use room temperature water.
7. Cover your tray with clear plastic. This will create a greenhouse effect and help keep the seeds warm and moist.
8. Place the seed tray in a well-lighted area, but out of direct sunlight.
9. Keep the seeds moist and remove the plastic when the seeds have sprouted, which can be anywhere from 7 to 28 days.

Transplanting

- Transplant your mums when all danger of frost has passed.
- Spade your garden soil thoroughly and eliminate any clumps or debris.
- Make a hole deep enough so that the roots will be completely covered.
- Work in some compost or manure; mums need nutrient rich soil.
- Fill the hole with water and allow the water to drain
- Set your transplant in the hole.
- Gently fill in the soil and tamp it down firmly.
- Water again and keep your mums well-watered throughout the season.