



Mums



Watering

Mums prefer consistently moist (but not soggy) soil. Newly planted mums should be watered two to three times per week.

Established plants in the ground should be fine with natural rainfall, but in droughts supplemental watering will be needed.

Plants in containers should be watered almost every other day. Mums will wilt from both over and under-watering, so be sure to check the soil before watering, especially in containers.

Feeding

If planting in the fall, generally, no fertilizer is needed. For established plants, feed monthly during the growing season through August with a well-rounded food like Plant-Tone or Flower-Tone. Plants in containers can be fed once with a time-release (such as Dynamite or Osmocote), or weekly with a water soluble, all purpose fertilizer.

Pinching

Well spaced mums receiving adequate light do not need to be pinched. However, overcrowded plants, or those in more shade should be pinched to encourage branching, and development of a compact & bushy habit. If needed, pinch each shoot by half when new growth reaches 4-6" and again every 5-6" of growth. Stop pinching by the 4th of July, so energy can be directed to the coming blooms.

Winter Protection

With some extra care, mums can be enjoyed for many years. For best results, they must be planted early enough in fall (ideally September through early October) to allow for good root development before frost.

Keep them moist until the ground freezes, & cover with evergreen boughs or wood mulch after several hard frosts. Do not cut back until spring (about the time the yellow Forsythia shrubs bloom). When plants become over-crowded, they can be divided in spring or fall.

Telly's Mum Care Guide

Mums provide outstanding color during the fall months. They can be used as bedding plants, in containers, and even in hanging baskets. Available in most any color except blue, there are many flower forms available to enjoy such as pompon, cushion, button, daisy-like, spider, and spoon-petal. Mums are photo-tropic (meaning their life cycle is greatly affected by the length of daylight). As daylight hours begin to shorten in the fall, flower bud development is triggered in mums.

Planting

Select a sunny location for best performance, where your mums will receive six hours (or more) of sun. Soil should be rich, fertile, high in organic matter, and should drain well. Good drainage is very important for the winter survival of mums. If you have clay soil, we recommend incorporating a soil conditioner such as Aged Pine Bark when planting, to improve drainage. This will also ensure good organic content, and raise the fertility of the soil.