



# Garden Mums

## LOCATION

Mums do best where they will receive full sun at least 75% of the day.

## SOIL

The soil in the planting location should be loosened and well drained. If a lot of clay is present, consider adding a mixture of 75% topsoil and 25% peat moss.

## WATERING

Water mums immediately after planting and try to keep soil consistently moist. During the summer months when the plant is growing vigorously, it is important not to let it wilt. The same holds true for the fall months during flowering.

## FERTILIZING

Mums need little or no fertilizer during flowering, but during the spring and summer, a fairly high rate of nitrogen should be applied to keep the plants vigorous. Use Peters 20-20-20 or something similar at least once every 10 days for best results.

## OVERWINTERING

Wait to prune plants until spring, then prune to 8" – 10" above soil. Mulching around plants with straw or evergreen branches in late fall will improve survival rate.

## PRODUCING BLOOMS FOR FALL

After plants begin to grow again in the spring, pinching out the center ½" to ¾" of each stem every 2 to 3 weeks will help the plant to stay well-shaped and bushy. Do not pinch any later than July 15 or blooms may be delayed.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

Any source of light, such as a porch or yard light, close to the plants will affect the bloom date of mums. If there are a lot of cool nights (60 to 67 degrees F), buds will initiate early and the plant may be in full bloom by the middle to the end of August. However, if there are a lot of warm nights (68 to 75 degrees F), the blooms will be delayed.

