

Kentucky Garden Flowers

Mums and Daisies

Chrysanthemum

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Chrysanthemums were one of the first ornamental plants to be domesticated more than 2000 years ago. The common chrysanthemum is native to Asia and they were used for gardens in China and Japan. Most current plants do not look like their native counterparts because of the breeding and selection that humans have competed over the centuries. Thus, there are many scientific names and confusing groups that are not clear to most gardeners. This publication discusses *Chrysanthemum* in the broad sense.

Painted Daisy, Pyrethrum - *Chrysanthemum coccineum*, (*Tanacetum coccineum*)

| Flower Color | Height | Season | Pests | Uses | Propagation |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|--------|-------------|--------------------------|
| red, pink, salmon | 12"- 24" | early summer | aphids | border, cut | seed, cuttings, division |

Performance - Painted Daisy is a cool season perennial that may not survive the long hot Kentucky summer. In the north, plants are planted in full sun, but partial shade would be better here.

Varieties - 'Evenglow', 'James Kelway', 'Robinson's Hybrids'.

Marguerite Daisy, Boston Daisy, Cobbitty DaisiesTM – *Chrysanthemum frutescens*, (*Argyranthemum frutescens*)

| Flower Color | Height | Season | Pests | Uses | Propagation |
|---------------------|---------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|-------------|
| yellow, white, pink | 8"- 24" | spring, summer | few | bedding, borders, containers | cuttings |

Performance - Boston and Marguerite daisy have the classic daisy flower that U.S. consumers love. They have been used as bedding and container plants for many years. In the early 1990's a group of new selections of these daisies were added to the product mix of garden centers. These daisies were somewhat smaller but produced many flowers in the spring and fall. Breeding and selection continues to produce new types. Most of the new daisies are patented and unlicensed commercial propagation is prohibited.

Comments - Many of the current varieties do not flower well under the long days and warm temperatures of Kentucky summers as shown in the photo below taken in early August at the Master

Gardener trial gardens in Marshall Co. Overall, the plants are easy to grow in Kentucky landscapes, but expect few flowers in mid summer. It is likely new varieties will perform better under our conditions.

Varieties –



New Marguerite daisies at Goldsmith Seed



Proven Winners' Marguerite daisies



Proven Winners' 'Molimba Mini White'



Limited flowering of 'Comet Pink' & 'Comet White', Aug. 5, 2004, Marshall Co., KY

Garden Chrysanthemum, Fall Blooming Mum, Hardy Mum - *Chrysanthemum x morifolium*, (*Dendranthema x grandiflorum*)

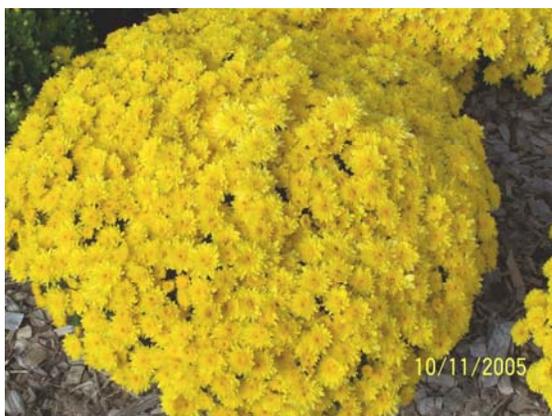
| Flower Color | Height | Season | Pests | Uses | Propagation |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------------|
| white, yellow, bronze, lavender, red | 1-3 ft. | late summer, early fall | aphids, spider mites, thrips, leaf hoppers | border, cut | seed, cuttings, division |

Performance - Garden mums are fall flowering plants common in Kentucky landscapes. There are hundreds of varieties in this group, some are reliable perennials but most will be annual or short-lived perennials, depending on variety and weather conditions. Garden mums should be planted in full sun; they will stretch and become floppy in partial shade. Good garden soils are fine and the plants should be fertilized each month during the summer. Some cultivars require pinching until July to keep the plants compact and attractive. Ideally they should be divided each spring.

Comments - Plants are commonly available from late August to late October across the state. You may also find smaller garden mums available in the spring. It may be best to plant smaller plants in the spring, so they will become established and better able to tolerate our winter weather. Many garden

mums are reliably hardy north of Kentucky, but our weather is more variable and plants are less hardy in the state. Garden mums sold in flower in the fall are modern varieties that have not been bred for winter hardiness in Kentucky. You may look for older varieties in older landscapes or from garden mum specialty nurseries if you want to have plants that will be reliable perennials in your garden.

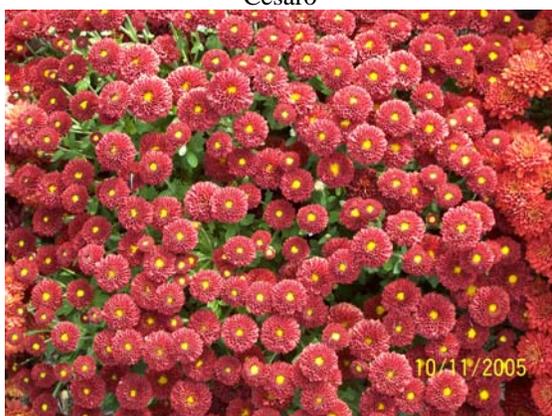
Varieties – Hundreds of varieties are available each year. Trials of garden mum performance and winter hardiness have been completed at the UK Horticulture Research Farm in 2004 and 2005 comparing over 100 cultivars. These trials have demonstrated that few modern varieties are winter hardy in Kentucky. Visit the following website for more photos: yoder.com



'Cesaro'



'Dark Triumph'



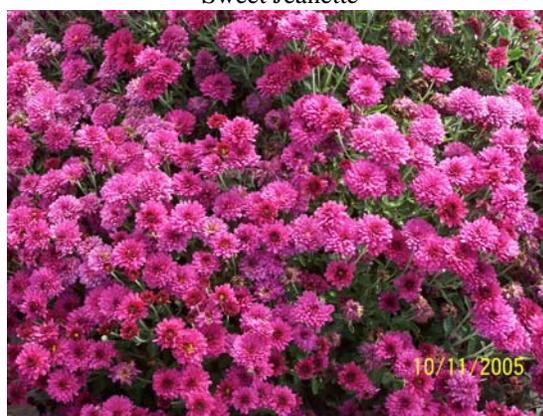
'Manakin Red'



'Sweet Jeanette'



'Jennifer'



'Beth'

Silver and Gold - *Chrysanthemum pacificum*, (*Ajania pacifica*)

| Flower Color | Height | Season | Pests | Uses | Propagation |
|--------------|----------|-----------|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| yellow, pink | 10"- 20" | late fall | aphids | border, specimen, ground cover | cuttings, division |

Performance - Silver and Gold is a generally a reliable perennial in Kentucky gardens, but sometimes it doesn't make it through the year. It is grown primarily for its distinct silvery green foliage with a golden band around the leaf edge. Flowers appear so late that they are of little ornamental value.

Varieties - 'Pink Ice' has performed very well from 2001 to 2006 in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm.



'Pink Ice' flowers in early November



Three year old plants of 'Pink Ice' in early September in UK trials.

Hybrid Red Chrysanthemum - *Chrysanthemum rubellum*, (*Dendranthema zawadskii*)

| Flower Color | Height | Season | Pests | Uses | Propagation |
|-------------------|----------|--------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| red, pink, yellow | 24"- 36" | fall | aphids, thrips | border, cut | cuttings, division |

Performance - The hybrid red chrysanthemum is a reliable perennial in Kentucky and, probably, a good plant for gardeners that want a perennial "garden mum". The daisy-like flowers and plant form are very similar to garden mums. These plants should be grown in full sun in good garden soil.

Varieties - 'Clara Curtis', 'Mary Stoker' and 'Hillside Pink' have performed well in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 2000 to 2006.



'Clara Curtis'



'Hillside Pink'



'Mary Stoker'

Shasta Daisy - *Chrysanthemum x superbum*, (*Leucanthemum x superbum*)

| Flower Color | Height | Season | Pests | Uses | Propagation |
|--------------|----------|----------------|--------|-------------|----------------|
| white | 12"- 36" | spring, summer | aphids | border, cut | seed, division |

Performance - Shasta daisies have a variable performance record in Kentucky gardens. They seem to die for no apparent reason or can become a weedy pest. These cool season plants probably suffer from summer drought more than anything. Shasta daisies should be planted in well-drained soils in sunny gardens. Divide every 2-3 years.

Comments - They may not bloom the first season when grown from seed.

Varieties - 'Alaska', 'Aglaiia', 'Becky', 'Esther Read', 'Marconi', 'Polaris', 'Snow Lady', 'Thomas Killen', 'Wirral Pride'. 'Becky' (2003 Perennial Plant of the Year) and 'Thomas Killen' have performed well in trials at the UK Horticulture Research Farm.



'Becky' at UK Arboretum



'Becky'



'Thomas Killen'



'Snow Lady'



'White Knight'

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