



GARDEN MUM CARE GUIDE

LIGHT

Place garden mums outdoors where they receive at least six hours of sun. A bright, open site encourages strong growth and flowering. For permanent planting, avoid locations where outdoor lighting interrupts the long nights that help trigger buds.

WATERING

Check container mums frequently and water at the soil surface when the mix begins to dry. Soak the root ball thoroughly and let excess drain. Do not rely on rain reaching through dense foliage, or leave a decorative pot filled with water.

SOIL

Use a container with drainage holes and fresh potting mix, or plant in fertile, well-drained garden soil at the original root-ball depth. Water after planting. Avoid low spots that stay wet through autumn and winter.

TEMPERATURE

Enjoy fall-purchased mums primarily as seasonal displays. Winter survival depends on variety, planting time and conditions, and is not guaranteed in Maine. Spring planting gives hardy varieties more time to establish. Leave stems standing and mulch established garden plants after the ground freezes.

FERTILIZING

Blooming fall displays generally need little additional fertilizer. For established garden plants, feed in spring according to label directions. Pinch young shoots in spring and early summer for bushiness; do not pinch plants already forming their fall buds.

PESTS

Watch for insects, spotted leaves and wilting. Remove faded flowers and unhealthy material, and provide airflow around plants. Water the soil rather than repeatedly wetting blooms. Florist mums and mixed autumn planters may need different care; check their labels.