Chrysanthemum x superbum Shasta Daisy

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Introduction

Also known as Chrysanthemum maximum, shasta daisy is a robust plant which will produce flowers on 2 ½- to 3-foot tall stems. It can be maintained as a true perennial throughout its range, but can only be grown as an annual in the central and southern half of Florida because the summer conditions are not appropriate. Shasta forms a rounded shape with many upright stems emerging from the ground. Plants spread slowly across the garden. The oblanceolate, dark green leaves are coarsely and bluntly toothed and may reach a length of 1 foot. The large, single, daisy-like flowers are clear white with a golden center and grow to about 2 to 3 inches across.

General Information

Scientific name: Chrysanthemum x superbum
Pronunciation: kriss-SANTH-ee-mum x soo-PUR-bum
Common name(s): shasta daisy
Family: Compositae
Plant type: perennial; herbaceous
USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 9A (Fig. 1)
Planting month for zone 7: year round
Planting month for zone 8: year round
Planting month for zone 9: year round
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: cut flowers; mass planting; ground cover; attracts butterflies
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of theregion to find the plant

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet
Spread: 1 to 2 feet
Plant habit: upright
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: serrate
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 8 to 12 inches
Leaf color: green

Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
**Chrysanthemum x superbum Shasta Daisy**

**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**  
**Flower color:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering; spring flowering

**Fruit**  
**Fruit shape:** no fruit  
**Fruit length:** no fruit  
**Fruit cover:** no fruit  
**Fruit color:** not applicable  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**  
**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems  
**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

**Culture**  
**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** acidic; loam; clay  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** poor  
**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

**Other**  
**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**  
The shasta daisy flowers last 4 to 6 days in a vase of water after cut from the plant. They can be planted in the garden for this reason alone. They are also ideal for edging a walkway or for locating in front of a shrub or perennial border where they are effective as individuals or in groups.

The shasta daisy should be grown in the full sun in the northern part of its range on fertile, moist, well-drained soils. They often perform best in Florida in the partial shade. Taller growing varieties can be pinched before flower buds form to keep them from becoming lanky. Provide good air circulation to avoid disease problems.

There are numerous cultivars selected with various maximum heights with double and semi-double flowers.

The shasta daisy is propagated by seed or division. This plant reproduces quickly.

**Pests and Diseases**  
The shasta daisy is occasionally bothered by leaf spots, stem rots, and leaf miners.