

Chrysanthemum x superbum Shasta Daisy¹

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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

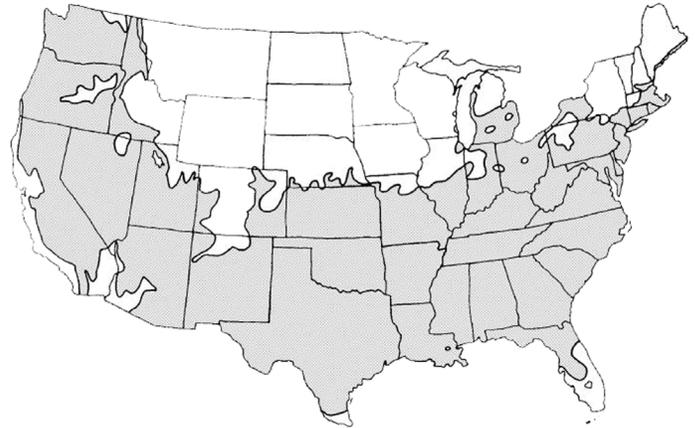


Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

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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.