Introduction

*Dendranthema x grandiflora* is a spreading perennial that reaches a height of about 6 inches (Fig. 1). However, it may attain a height of 7 to 24 inches when in flower. Beautiful flower spikes appear in the fall and spring seasons. These flowers come in colors of brown, red, white, yellow, pink, or red-orange. The flowers may be cut for flower arrangements, and the plant is commonly massed in the landscape.

General Information

**Scientific name:** *Dendranthema x grandiflora*

**Pronunciation:** den-dran-THEEM-uh x gran-dif-FLOR-uh

**Common name(s):** garden mum, garden chrysanthemum, florists’ chrysanthemum

**Family:** Compositae

**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 through 10A (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** Oct; Mar; Apr

**Planting month for zone 8:** Oct; Mar; Apr

**Planting month for zone 9:** not recommended

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** not recommended

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** mass planting; edging; attracts butterflies

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** round
**Plant density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** moderate  
**Texture:** fine

**Foliage**  
**Leaf arrangement:** alternate  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** lobed  
**Leaf shape:** ovate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** not applicable  
**Fall characteristic:** not applicable

**Flower**  
**Flower color:** pink; brown; red; white; yellow; red-orange  
**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; fall flowering

**Fruit**  
**Fruit shape:** unknown  
**Fruit length:** unknown  
**Fruit cover:** unknown  
**Fruit color:** unknown  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**  
**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**  
**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay  
**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown  
**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 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:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

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**Use and Management**  
Garden mums will prosper in full sun to partial shade and prefer well-drained soils amended with organic matter. In sandy soils, a 3 to 4 inch layer of peat or compost should be worked into the top six inches of the soil. From late spring through mid-August, lightly prune stems without flower buds whenever they grow over six inches by snipping off the top 2 inches of growth. Prune off dead flower spikes.

Some varieties of garden mum produce tall flower spikes which must be staked. *Chrysanthemum pacificum*, a plant grown for its attractive, variegated foliage makes an interesting ground cover in full sun locations in central and north Florida.

Propagate *Dendranthema x grandiflora* by division or cuttings.

**Pests and Diseases**  
The garden mum is relatively pest tolerant and has few pests of major concern. Leaf blight is probably the biggest concern.