

# *Dendranthema x grandiflora* Garden Mum, Garden Chrysanthemum<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

*Dendranthema x grandiflora* is a spreading perennial that reaches a height of about 6 inches. 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.



Figure 1. Full Form - *Dendranthema x grandiflora* 'Raquel': Garden Mum, Garden Chrysanthemum  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Flower - *Dendranthema x grandiflora* 'Sundoro': Garden Mum, Garden Chrysanthemum  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## 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 (Figure 3)

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**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

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

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

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



Figure 3. Shaded area represents potential planting 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

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## 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.