**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)

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.
Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

- **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

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**Dendranthema x grandiflora Garden Mum, Garden Chrysanthemum**

**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

**Drought tolerance:**

**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

**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.