

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

---

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### 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)



**Figure 1.** Garden Mum.

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

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

- 
1. This document is FPS171, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date October, 1999. Reviewed June, 2007. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
  2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Larry Arrington, Dean



**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

**Fruit length:** unknown

**Fruit cover:** unknown

**Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

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.

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** green

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

### Pests and Diseases

The Garden Mum is relatively pest tolerant and has few pests of major concern. Leaf blight is probably the biggest concern.

### 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