

Add Fall Color with No-Pinch Garden Mums

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Varieties

- Ask your supplier for a list of self-branching, no-pinch varieties.
- Avoid varieties that tend to be coarse, leggy, or uneven in growth.
- Try growing small numbers of no-pinch plants until you gain confidence that the no-pinch method works for you.

Planting

- One cutting per 8" or 9" pot is all you need.
- Plant rooted cuttings of no-pinch varieties in mid to late June for 8" pots.
- Plant no-pinch crops later than pinched crops; delay planting by one week for each pinch you eliminate.
- For smaller pot sizes, plant later in the season.
- Use a lightweight, well-drained growing medium.

Spacing

- Space pots early before crowding occurs.
- Use a minimum of 18"x18" spacing for 8" pots.
- The wider the spacing, the better the plant shape.

Temperature

- Vegetative growth is best at 70°-75°F
- Flower development is best at 68°-72°F until color shows, then about 65°F.
- High temperatures can delay flowering.

Irrigation

- Don't allow mums to wilt, especially in the early stages.
- Drip or trickle irrigation works best.
- Large plants may need irrigation more than once a day in July and August.
- Free drainage underneath the pot is essential to prevent root rots. If growing mums on plastic, make sure there are no low spots where water collects and stands after irrigation or rainfall.

Fertilization

- Start feeding soon after planting and keep feeding until about two weeks before sale.
- Constant liquid feed at 250-300 ppm nitrogen from a balanced fertilizer (20-10-20, 15-5-15, 17-3-17 etc.) works well.
- Maintain electrical conductivity (EC) readings of 2.5 – 3.0 in pots on a constant feed program. Leach with water if the EC levels exceed 3.0.