

Fall Flowers



Garden Mums

Garden mums are one of the most spectacular blooming plants for fall. They come in a large selection of colors and varieties. Mums may be planted anytime from spring through fall. Garden mums grow best in areas receiving full sun for a half-day or more. Mums planted in the spring or those that have wintered over should be pinched back monthly to keep them to a height of 12". Make the final pinch no later than July 15. Fertilize with a high phosphorus formula from May 1 until August 15. To improve winter hardiness, mulch mums after the soil has frozen in late December or early January.

Pansies

Fall is a great time to plant pansies. Significant improvements have been made over the last few years. If well established in the fall, pansies will not only provide fall color, but also will winter over and be ready to burst into bloom first thing in the spring. Their color will brighten the garden well into summer. Pansies are best suited to sunny or partially shaded locations. Fertilize on a regular basis during the growing season. Some winter protection may be necessary, such as a light mulch applied after the soil has frozen in mid winter.

Ornamental Cabbage and Kale

Both ornamental cabbages and kales can be planted in spring or fall in a location that receives a half-day or more of full sun. As autumn approaches and the weather grows cooler, the leaf colors intensify, making these plants a vibrant companion planting for garden mums and evergreens.

Hardy Asters

Hardy Asters are easy to grow perennials that can be planted in spring or fall. They vary in color from purple to pink to white varieties. Many of them differ in blooming heights. They will add

color to your garden from late summer well into fall. Asters are native to many parts of the US and they require a location that will provide 6 hours or more of full sun a day. Use an organic fertilizer.