

# Hardy Mums for Spring and Summer Sale

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**H**ardy mums, fall mums and garden mums are a few of the names used to describe the fall flowering perennial chrysanthemums produced in greenhouses or the field in the summer and sold in September and October. Now add one more label to the list—bedding plant. Growers are finding a spring and early summer market for hardy mums produced in 3, 4 or 6" pots or in cell packs. Spring mums can be sold in bloom or as green plants. Spring mums are attractive for the consumer because the plants can be pinched back after the spring show has faded and will flower again in the fall naturally.

Potted mums (i.e. plants in 3, 4 or 6" containers) are sold in bloom. Mums in cell packs can be sold in bloom or as once pinched, green bedding plants. Plants sold green should be labeled.

Growers can choose from several different production programs. The best program to use will depend on the time of year and the desired end product. One option is to plant cuttings into pots or cell flats (2 1/4" size) without lighting or shading. With this method, mums planted in January, February or early March will flower naturally in about seven weeks. DO NOT use this method if a flowering date later than April 30 is desired. Plants should be pinched seven to 14 days after planting. Mums in 3" to 4" pots can be produced at a density of four (4) per square foot. If 6" pots are produced with this method, plant four to five cuttings per pot, pinch each plant once and allot one square foot per pot.

Flowering time of plants produced without lighting or shading will be more variable than those produced with lighting or shading. If scheduling a crop for a specific flowering date, lighting or shading must be used to control flowering time. With the light/shade program, plants in 3" or 4" pots are lit for two (2) weeks using 10 ft-c every night between 10 pm and 2 am. Plants in larger pots (6") may be lit for an additional week or two. Plants are pinched within seven to 14 days following planting. If flowering plants are scheduled any time after March 15, shade must be pulled to produce at least 12 1/2 uninterrupted hours of darkness per night. This method will require nine to 12 weeks to produce a flowering plant. (Larger pot sizes, which are lit for three to four weeks, require the most time to finish.)

Mums in cell packs can be produced as pinched or unpinched plants. For those sold in flower, grow unpinched plants. Green mums can be pinched at transplant and sold in 14 to 28 days. To control height of unpinched, green mums, apply B-nine at 2,500 ppm during the first two weeks following transplant.

Temperature is critical with both the light/shade and the no light/no shade production methods. Maintain a minimum night temperature of 60°F. If this temperature is not maintained, flowering will be erratic or may not occur at all.

Some cultivars are better suited for spring and summer forcing than others. Check with your propagator to find out which cultivars are best for this purpose. The following tables of Yoder cultivars are recommended for spring and summer forcing.

## Table 1 Spring

### *Decoratives*

<b>White</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Pink</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Red</b>
Surf	Yel Boaldi	Charm Dark Bronze	Charm	Redding
Boaldi	Dark Yellow Boaldi	Dark Charm	Salmon Charm	Cherry Pomona
Claro	Cream Boaldi	Dark Pomona	Theme	Red Delano
White Diamond	Iridon Kory	Coral Charm Delano Coral Pomona		

### *Daisies/Anemones*

<b>White</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Pink</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Red</b>
Dana	Yellow Dana	Davis	Tan	Lucido
Tara	Cream Dana	Monterey	Dark Tan	
Dare	Miramar	Neoga	Forge	
	Yellow Tara	Rapture	Salmon	
	Cream Tara	Pasadena	Splendor	

## Table 2 Summer

### *Decoratives*

<b>White</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Pink</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Red</b>
Boaldi	Cream Boaldi	Deep Luv	Theme	Redding
Claro	Dark Yellow Boaldi	Delano	Torch	Red Delano
Envy	Kory			
White Diamond	Tip Yel Favor Yel Ovaro			

### *Daisies/Anemones*

<b>White</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Pink</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Red</b>
Dana	Cream Dana	Chic	Tan	Lucido
Dare	Yellow Dana	Davis	Dark Tan	
Denver	Eureka	Monterey		
Solo	Miramar	Rapture		

Green mums sold in cell packs must have cultivar identification tags to let consumers know what they are buying. Mums in pots or packs can be sold along with other perennials in the late spring and early summer time period. Unsold plants can be shifted to larger containers and sold when in fall color. Consumers should be made aware that their mums will bloom again in the fall. Mums planted in the garden in the spring will develop a better root system than those planted in the fall while in full color. As a result, spring planted mums will tend

**to overwinter better than fall planted mums. This is another benefit the consumer should be made aware of. It's too late to produce mums this year for spring and summer bedding plant sale, but that leaves plenty of time to plan for next year's production. Consider spring mums for 1993.**