

'Inca'TM and 'Snowscape'TM Chrysanthemums for 1996

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The University of Minnesota garden chrysanthemum breeding program announces the release of new garden mum cultivars for 1996: 'Inca' and 'Snowscape'. 'Inca' (Mn. Selection No. 90-118-5) is the product of the cross: yellow Mn. Sel'n. No. 89-320-40 x purple Mn.

Sel'n. No. 89-471-21. Both parents are unnamed, advanced inbreds. Flower coloration is unique in this selection, as it opens as a red button which fades to a light bronze/orange, with yellow highlights, as each flower ages. Floral coverage is so dense on the semi-hemispherical plants that foliage

is completely hidden. The effect is one of hammered gold, an 'Inca' treasure. In overall appearance, 'Inca' is a tapestry of fall colors that resemble marigold flowers. This unique coloration makes 'Inca' an ideal candidate for fall chrysanthemum sales.

When grown commercially for flowering spring pot sales, 'Inca' is a 6-week cultivar, requiring only minimal application of a chemical growth regulator. When grown under short-day conditions, 'Inca' averages

13 cm tall in a 10 cm pot without the application of a chemical growth regulator.

Under field or garden conditions, the flowering period of 'Inca' begins in early August and, across the state of Minnesota, it is in

full bloom by August 15. Each flower is 5 cm in diameter, fully double, and a button flower type. 'Inca' has a cushion plant habit with intermediate stem stiffness. The plant height averages 30 cm and plant spread is 41 cm. Flowers are moderately frost resistant and plants are moderately winter hardy in open-field conditions,

although mulching is recommended for the best winter survival. Since 'Inca' represents a new concept in garden chrysanthemum flower colors, no commercial cultivars match 'Inca' in appearance. Plant habit and overall shape of 'Inca' resemble recent releases such as 'Bold Christine' and 'Glowing Lynn' (Yoder Brothers, Inc., Barberton, Ohio), although 'Inca' flowers one week earlier.

'Snowscape' (Mn. Sel'n. No. 93-11-145) is the product of open-pollination of inbred parent Mn. Sel'n.



No. 89-471-21. Bicolor flower petal patterning of white with purple tips makes 'Snowscape' another unique University of Minnesota introduction. These colors give 'Snowscape' flowers the appearance of dahlias. Flowering plants form mounds, with floral coverage nearly to the ground, giving the effect of snow drifts on a sunny afternoon.

When grown commercially for flowering spring pot sales, 'Snowscape' is a five-week response cultivar. 'Snowscape' is the earliest flowering, day-neutral garden chrysanthemum ever released by the University of Minnesota. Day neutrality in 'Snowscape' causes it to bloom only one week later under long-day conditions than with standard, short-day photoperiods. For spring flowering pot sales, 'Snowscape' averages 10.4 cm in height in 10 cm pots (short-day photoperiods) without the application of a chemical growth substance. Thus, it is not recommended that a chemical growth substance be applied.

In field trials, 'Snowscape' begins flowering in late July to early August and continues with a full canopy of blossoms until a freeze. 'Snowscape' flowers earlier than comparable commercial cultivars in both cool and hot summers. Each flower averages 7.5 cm in diameter and the flower type is semi-double decorative. Plant height averages 28 cm and plant spread is 47 cm. 'Snowscape' has a spreading cushion plant habit and strong stem stiffness. In plant habit and shape, 'Snowscape' resembles 'Foxy Valerie' (Yoder Brothers). 'Spotlight' (Yoder Brothers) differs by having white flowers with a pink eye and is in the 7-week response group. Flowers are

moderately frost resistant and plants are moderately winter hardy under open field conditions. It is recommended that 'Snowscape' be mulched to ensure maximal winter survival.

'Inca'TM and 'Snowscape'TM may be propagated only by licensed parties. Firms or individuals desiring to propagate and merchandise cuttings of 'Inca' and/or 'Snowscape' must apply for a license. Contact Drs. Neil Anderson (612/624-3232; FAX: 612/624-4941; E-mail: ander044@maroon.tc.umn.edu) or Peter Ascher (612/624-9762; FAX: 612/624-4941; E-mail: asche001@maroon.tc.umn.edu), Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, 1970 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. Individuals may also contact these licensed propagators: Dooley Gardens, 210 North High Drive N.E., Hutchinson, MN 55350 (612/5873050) or 'Mums for Minnesota, 3135 227th Street East, Faribault, MN 55021 (507/334-6220).

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