

Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemum × morifolium

Weeks of dense, saturated autumn colour for very little effort. Keep it cool and never let it go dry, and it will hold that colour a long time.



Drainage Take the foil sleeve off so the pot can drain

BRIGHT LIGHT

COOL ROOM

THIRSTY

A note on the name. Your page currently says 'Chrysanthemum persicum'. That name does not exist — persicum belongs to Cyclamen persicum, a different crop entirely.

DAY TO DAY

Light	Bright light near a window, out of hot direct afternoon sun, which cooks the open flowers.
Water	Mums are thirsty and wilt fast. Keep the soil evenly moist — check daily, water thoroughly when the surface starts to feel dry. One bad wilt and the open flowers brown off. Remove any decorative foil sleeve or punch holes so the pot can drain.
Food	None needed. A finished pot mum is sold fully budded and gains nothing from feeding during its display life.
Temperature	The cooler the better: 16–18°C / 61–65°F by day, 13–16°C / 56–60°F at night. Away from heat vents, appliances and sunny windowsills.
Humidity	Ordinary indoor humidity. Air movement matters more — stagnant damp air around the flowers invites grey mould.

WHEN THE FLOWERS FINISH

A potted mum is a one-season plant indoors. It will not rebloom on a windowsill, because a mum needs more than twelve hours of unbroken darkness every night to set buds and a lit room never gives it that. If yours is a hardy garden type and you are somewhere mild, cut it back and plant it outdoors in spring in a sunny, well-drained spot for a natural autumn bloom.

IF SOMETHING LOOKS WRONG

Dramatic wilt, then brown papery flowers	It dried out. Mums use a lot of water in flower and rarely recover their looks after one severe wilt.
Fuzzy grey mould on the flowers	Botrytis from damp still air and water sitting on the petals. Water the soil, not the blooms.
Yellowing lower leaves and collapse in wet soil	Root rot from a pot that cannot drain — usually the foil sleeve holding water.

GROWER REFERENCE

Production and finishing figures. If you are keeping this plant on a windowsill, everything you need is on page one — this page is for the trade.

Media pH	5.8–6.2 in soilless mixes; 6.2–6.8 in soil-based.
Media EC	SME 0.8–1.5 at establishment, 1.7–3.0 during active growth, 0.8–1.5 at finish. Garden mum guidance gives SME 2.0–3.5 / PourThru 2.5–4.5 at finish.
Substrate	Well-drained, well-aerated peat- or bark-based mix with good moisture holding and 12–18% air-filled porosity. Soil-based media must be steam-pasteurized at 71°C / 160°F for 30 minutes.
Fertilizer	200–300 ppm N in soil-based media, 300–400 ppm N in soilless, using 20-10-20, 20-5-19 or 21-5-20 with most N in nitrate form. Reduce or discontinue over the final 2–3 weeks to harden. Mid-crop, 15-0-15 every third irrigation limits stretch.
Light	High light crop: 800–1,200 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ and DLI 30–35 at finish (200–400 and DLI 10–20 in propagation). Photoperiodic lighting needs only 10–15 f.c.
Temperature	Finishing 19°C day cloudy / 22°C day sunny, 17–18°C night (67/72°F day, 62–65°F night). Final 3–4 weeks 16–18°C day / 13–16°C night. Propagation 18–20°C night with 20–21°C rooting medium.
Relative humidity	Not established numerically. Guidance is qualitative: adequate air movement, and water early enough that foliage dries before evening.
Irrigation	Drip, ebb-and-flow, troughs, capillary mats or subirrigation. Moderate to high moisture cycling from moist to slightly dry. Avoid overhead late in the day.
Photoperiod	Obligate SHORT-DAY plant. Initiation needs a minimum 12 hours of uninterrupted total darkness. Hold vegetative under night-interruption lighting 10 p.m.–2 a.m. at minimum 10 f.c., optionally cyclic (8 min light / 24 min dark) to cut energy up to 75%. For short days, black cloth drawn 4–5 p.m. and pulled 7–8 a.m.; must reduce light beneath the cloth to under 2 f.c. Every day of shading skipped delays flowering by a day.

DISORDERS & PESTS

Pythium, Rhizoctonia and Fusarium root and stem rot; Fusarium and Verticillium wilt; Botrytis; powdery mildew; bacterial leaf spot; chrysanthemum stunt viroid; chrysanthemum white rust (regulated). High salts cause root damage and secondary Pythium. Warm nights delay flowering, cool nights advance it. Aphids, thrips, spider mites, whiteflies, leafminers, fungus gnats, caterpillars.

GROWN BY

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From the Greek chrysos, gold, and anthemon, flower. It is the imperial seal of Japan and the basis of that country's highest honour, the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum, and the National Chrysanthemum Society recognises 13 distinct flower-form classes.

Sources

- Syngenta Flowers, Pot Mum culture guide
- UMass Extension Greenhouse Floriculture; Ball Garden Mum Culture Guide