

Mums



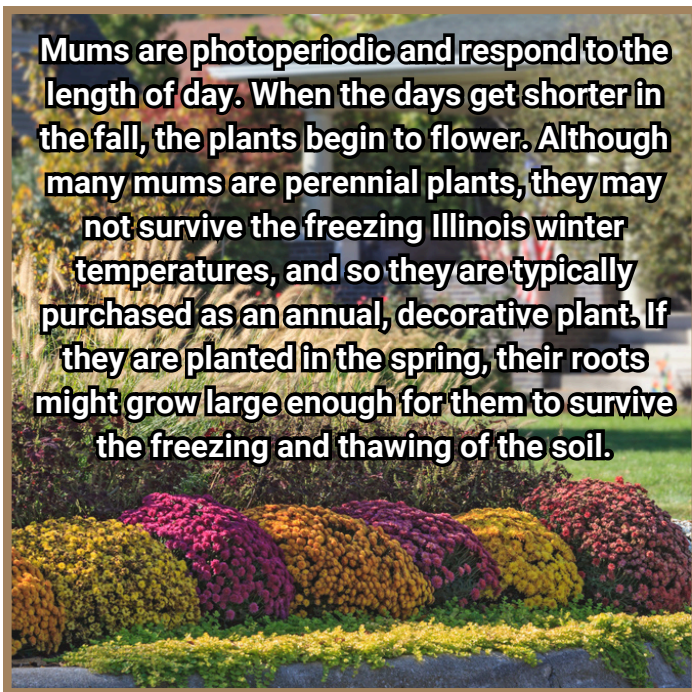
Chrysanthemums, or mums, are a type of flowering plant that originates from China and other parts of East Asia. They were imported to the United States in the late 1700s by an inventor named Colonel John Stevens.

Mums are fall-blooming plants and can be grown in all 50 states. There are thousands of varieties within 13 classified types of mums. Mums can be used in bouquets, planted in gardens, and even used for fall decorations.



Many farmers and gardeners prune their mums using a technique called "pinching." When the plant is about 3-6 inches tall, the top inch of new growth is removed by pinching or cutting. Removing that new growth in the early spring not only keeps them from budding too early, but it also encourages more flower growth and keeps the plants in a compact, bushy form.

Mums are photoperiodic and respond to the length of day. When the days get shorter in the fall, the plants begin to flower. Although many mums are perennial plants, they may not survive the freezing Illinois winter temperatures, and so they are typically purchased as an annual, decorative plant. If they are planted in the spring, their roots might grow large enough for them to survive the freezing and thawing of the soil.



Header photo courtesy of Mariah's Mums and More



Meet the Anderson Family

Mariah's Mums & More | Clinton, IL



Tell us about your farm.

Our journey began in 2009, starting with just 300 mums. Over the years, our passion for quality and unique varieties led to the growth of our farm. Today we grow over 20,000 mums.

We proudly grow more than 350 different mum varieties, spanning a spectrum of colors, including red, maroon, orange, bronze, purple, pink, white, cream, yellow, and gold. Beyond the classic favorites, we specialize in unique colors and blooms, tricolor combinations, and hard-to-find varieties. We also take pride in growing a diverse selection of vertically grown strawberries, fresh seasonal produce, pumpkins, and stunning spring and summer u-cut flowers.

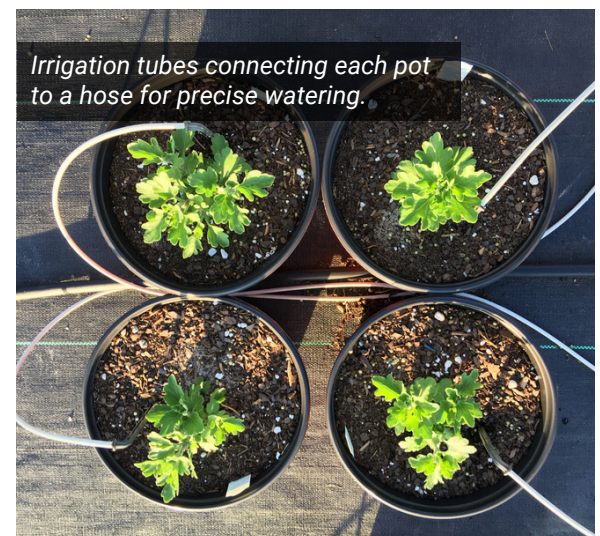
When and how do you plant and harvest your mums?

We plant our mums in early June, directly into the pots they will grow in and be sold in during the fall. Using a pot-filling machine, we ensure each pot is filled with well-draining potting soil. After planting the mums by hand, we connect each one to an irrigation tube for precise watering. Our mums receive water several times a day in short intervals, keeping them hydrated while preventing overly wet soil—mums prefer moisture but dislike having 'wet feet.'

By early July, the plants expand to fill their pots, and by early August, most branches begin forming blooms. Since we grow so many varieties, we strategically stage their growth to ensure a continuous bloom cycle from late August through mid-October.

How do you sell your mums?

Today, 90% of our mums are sold directly from our farm in a u-pick fashion, allowing customers to hand-select their perfect mums. Since our roots are in supplying mums to pumpkin farms, we also developed a Mum Kit program for farms and growers who want to grow and sell smaller quantity of mums to sell in the fall.



All photos on this page courtesy of Mariah's Mums and More