

CARING FOR YOUR MUMS

The mum is a wonderful addition to any garden for a burst of beautiful fall color. But getting that color to return from year to year can be a bit tricky.

The deciding factor of mums surviving the winter really depends on how early they are planted. Early planting means that the roots have a greater chance to become established. The longer the mums are in the ground before the ground starts to freeze, the more likely they are to survive.

To offer your mums an even greater chance of survival, we recommend winterizing them for winter protection. After the ground begins freezing place mulch, evergreen boughs or straw around the plant. We also recommend **NOT** cutting the plants back, this gives your mums added protection.

In the spring, uncover the mums as soon as they begin showing signs of growing again. Fertilize the mums along with your other plants, this is going to encourage your mums to grow into their nice full, mounded multi-blooming forms in the fall. You are going to want to pinch them back whenever the new shoots grow to a length averaging 3-5". Continue this process until mid-July.

While there is no guarantee that mums will live through the winter and become a fall color burst next year, but by following these suggestions, you are giving your mums a better chance for survival.