



Common Names:
Mums, hardy garden mums

Plant Type: Perennial

Light Requirements:
Full Sun

Height: 2-3 ft
depending on variety

Bloom Time: Fall

Hardiness Zones: 3-9

Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemum is a genus of herbaceous perennials in the aster family (Asteraceae). The genus includes around 200 different species, which include the fall blooming plants that are commonly referred to as "mums." Originally hailing from Asia, mums have been hybridized and are quite widespread throughout the world. The mums growing in our garden in downtown Ithaca are most likely varieties of *Chrysanthemum morifolium*.

Chrysanthemums grow best in full sun in consistently moist, well-drained soil. In hot climates, plants may benefit from some afternoon shade. To encourage more compact, bushy plants, mums can be sheared back or "pinched" from May through July. This helps control height and flopping when plants bloom in late summer/early fall. Although mums are considered perennial, winter hardiness can vary from year to year and from location to location even within the same growing zone. In northern climates, avoid cutting back spent stems until early spring. The stems left standing can help protect the crown of the plant and provide some insulation from the cold. Divide mums every few years to control spread and rejuvenate the plant.

References:

<https://libguides.nybg.org/c.php?g=655086&p=4597573>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chrysanthemum-x-morifolium/>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=274180>