

**L****ANDON'S**  
**GREENHOUSE & NURSERY**  
56 LANDON LANE \* 505 COLLEGE MEADOWS  
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*Adding Color to Your Life*  
**PLANTING TIPS FOR GARDEN MUMS**

Mums provide a splash of color for autumn. All of Landon's varieties are early flowering to give you blooms from mid-August until the first hard killing frost. These tips will help you plant and care for your mums.

**FLOWER TYPES** – Mums are classified according to their flower type. Landon's carries the following types:

1. Single – Daisy-like flowers having one row of petals and a small center.
2. Button – Small round, almost globular flower.
3. Fuji (Spider) – Petals long and tubular with hooked ends.
4. Decorative – Somewhat flattened flower with petals normally curving loosely or tightly toward the center, the "traditional mum".

**PLANT TYPES** – All of our mums are Cushion type ranging in height from 18-24 inches. They are bushy and compact in habit.

**WHERE TO PLANT** – Select a site with full sun. Mums grown in the shade are usually weak stemmed with small flowers. However, it is best not to plant in an area that will freeze and thaw frequently in the winter, such as a south side, next to a building.

**SOIL PREPARATION** – It is important to ensure good nutrition and drainage for your mums. Heavy clay soil or very sandy soil will be benefited by the addition of organic material. We recommend turning in at least 3 inches of peat moss or compost. The organic material could be stretched by substituting not more than 1 inch of old sawdust for 1 inch of the peat or compost. Next, apply a garden fertilizer at a rate of 1 lb/100 sq. ft. Turn the soil again, rake it smooth, and plant.

**PRE-PLANTING CARE** – If you buy mums and cannot plant them the same day, water the pots thoroughly and place them in the shade to prevent wilting. Check the pots daily to see if they need additional water.

**HOW TO PLANT** – Remove the plant from its pot, root ball intact. If the roots have begun to curl around the soil ball or are densely packed, loosen them around the sides and bottom of the soil ball. This will speed their growth into the new soil. Set the plant in to the ground deeply enough so that all the roots will be well covered and replace the soil about it. Water thoroughly and protect from direct sun and drying winds for the first 4-7 days while the plant establishes itself. Mums require about 18" spacing.

**FERTILIZATION** – Fertilize once a month at a rate of ½ lb. garden fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. until buds form. Then discontinue until next season.

**PINCHING** – New and established plants will benefit from pinching. Compact, bushy plants, instead of tall spindly ones, will result. Remove ½" of the tips when the shoots are 3-4" tall. As the new shoots develop, these can be pinched back as well when they reach 4" in height. For compact, bushy plants continue to pinch in this manner until July 4<sup>th</sup> and then allow the plants to grow normally.

**WATERING** – Water in garden mums thoroughly to give them a good start. Using a houseplant fertilizer at this point will give them an extra boost. Thereafter, water whenever the soil begins to dry. Do this early in the day with a soaking technique at ground level. Moisture on the leaves through the cool nights can sometimes cause disease. Don't be satisfied with just sprinkling the foliage since plants will not receive enough water.

**WINTER PROTECTION** – Some garden mum cultivars are not as winter hardy as others. To protect the plants from severe cold and heaving of the soil that results from alternate freezing and thawing, place 6-8" of clean straw or other mulch over the plants after the soil has frozen. Gradually remove the mulch in the spring as growth begins (approx. mid-March). Mums, like rose, may still die off through the winter from time to time.