

GARDEN CHRYSANTHEMUM CULTIVARS FOR SOUTHERN CONTAINER PRODUCTION

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The following cultivars of garden mums are neither totally inclusive nor exclusive. They are those which I have personally seen perform admirably in production in the South.

Characteristics that I look for in selecting cultivars include:

1. Plant habit—is the growth even and pleasing to the eye?
2. Is the plant sturdy?
3. Are the flowers of sufficient numbers and of a form to be pleasing to the consumer?
4. Are the plant and flowers durable?
5. When does it flower?

WHITES

'Minnwhite': Has an excellent mounding habit. This is one of the earliest-flowering cultivars. The plant is very free breaking. The somewhat small flowers are overcome by the profuse budding. 'Minnwhite' can have problems in shipping, and it sometimes breaks open in center of plant.

'White Grandchild': Produces a full plant. The habit is not as mounding as Minnwhite, but the flowers are larger. Blooms about the same time as Minnwhite.

'Penguin': Has a nice compact plant habit but is later than either 'White Grandchild' or 'Minnwhite'.

'Starfire': Well-shaped plant. Somewhat upright, but sturdy. Flowers are larger than 'White Grandchild'. This is a late cultivar, flowering approximately two weeks later than 'White Grandchild'. 'Starfire' would be better for the customer as it would establish before blooming, but he will not buy it green.

'Ballerina': Plant habit much like 'Starfire'. Flower date about the same as 'Starfire'. It looks like a miniature spider.

'White Stardom': A white daisy which has an excellent plant habit. An early flower date.

YELLOWS

'Sunbeam': A beautiful, compact, spreading habit. Small flowers, but very profuse and durable. Is slow to flower, possibly mid-October.

'Goldmine': A strong, compact plant. Flower is an attractive

gold-yellow that keeps well. Flowers in early October or late September. One of the best new cultivars.

'Fortune': Has a strong, compact habit. Flowers are up to 2½ in. across.

'Jackpot': Plant has a strong, cushion habit. Flowers a week later than 'Fortune'. Probably the number one yellow in sales. The last few years it has seemed unusually susceptible to *Fusarium*.

'Yellow Jacket': Has an excellent mounding habit. Very free-breaking and profuse-flowering. Flowers end of September—early October.

'Allure': More attractive daisy form than 'Yellow Jacket.' Flowers 1–2 weeks earlier. Excellent plant habit.

'Minnyellow': Has the same characteristics as 'Minnwhite'.

BRONZE AND REDS

'Grenadine': A color best described as coral bronze that has been very popular. The flowers are from 3 to 4 inches in diameter. The plant has an attractive mounding habit. One of the earlier flowering cultivars in Texas. It is all around excellent, although the color varies with the temperature.

'Ironsidés': An orange bronze flower with an even plant habit. A fairly early bloomer but is susceptible to crown buds, which do not develop when exposed to long periods of high temperature.

'Minngopher': Similar to 'Minnwhite' in habit and flower date. One of the best red decoratives.

'Pancho': Has a compact, mounding habit. Same color as 'Ironsidés' with some of the same problems. Flowers two to three days later than 'Ironsidés'.

'Remarkable': An even plant with a strong red color, which it retains well. Flowers one to two weeks later than 'Minngopher'. An overall excellent plant, and with 'Minngopher', the top red cultivars.

'Ruby Mound': A red that has an excellent mounding habit. Very free branching with a profusion of buds. Color does not hold as well as 'Remarkable'. The cuttings are very sensitive to foliar breakdown in shipping.

'Viking': A full, sturdy plant. Free branching, will have more flowers than 'Ironsidés', but flowers one to two weeks later.

PINKS

'Adorn': A true pink daisy, which flowers early. Has a low, spreading plant habit. An overall excellent cultivar.

'Stardom': The number one selling pink for years. Excellent plant habit and early flowering. May "over-petal" and look more like a decorative.

'Stargazer': A sport of 'Stardom' with all attributes of 'Stardom'

and some improvements. Flower is more true daisy and the color is darker. Will flower three to four days later than Stardom.

'Debonair': Possibly the best new cultivar in years. Has even plant growth, free breaking, and sturdy. Most durable flower of all pinks. Flowers early. This should be a must in garden mum programs.

NATIVE ORNAMENTALS FOR THE U.S. SOUTHWEST

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Lone Star Growers, located in San Antonio, Texas, is a wholesale nursery specializing in production of container-grown ornamentals. Besides ornamental shrubs and trees we also grow annual and perennial color crops, tropical foliage, and southwestern natives.

The Native Plant Program developed at Lone Star Growers is based on company philosophy that we owe something to the community in which we make our living. We are introducing to the trade plants that are well adapted to their environment. Texas is facing a growing water crisis, and plants must be drought tolerant as well as hardy to survive. Although the skepticism was great at the time that the program would not be economically feasible, Lone Star believed then, as it does now, that native plants are the way of the future.

The program itself started as an introduction department where species could be evaluated in several areas: their ornamental value, hardiness, and regional adaptability; and also where their propagation techniques and cultural needs could be determined.

Over 800 species from Texas and surrounding areas have been collected and are currently being evaluated. In the past three years we have brought over 200 into commercial production.

Over the last two years we have seen an explosion in the interest and demand for natives in the industry. The promotion of natives through Xeriscape, the Texas Department of Agriculture and county extension agencies have gone a long way in creating an acceptance of native plants as useful ornamentals.

In response, this past spring has brought the development of a new department solely devoted to the production of natives from propagation to large container specimens. This department will be able to offer a wide range of natives to the consumer, rather than