



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

Mums 101

Don't limit your love of houseplants because you are lacking light! There is a great variety of low-light houseplants ready to go home with you, from snake plants to zz plants, and more, the opportunities are endless no matter how many windows you have. Join Mike Westphal, the Garden Guru as he guides us through types of low-light plants, decorating ideas, care tips, and more.

Nothing Says "Fall" like Mums

Chrysanthemums (or mums for short) are one of fall's most versatile plants. They can be grown in containers indoors or out, in hanging baskets, window boxes, and in your landscape! There are different types of mums to be aware of as well as different bloom periods per mum variety.

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Most garden mums are hardy in USDA zones 5-9. They are most well known for their tightly-packed domes of blooms that can come in a variety of colors. Most popular are yellow, white, red, orange, and purple. These blooms can last several weeks and bloom early, mid, or late fall.

Alternatively, florist mums are typically not winter hardy and are more so grown to be cut flowers, hence their namesake. These type of mums can be grown indoors and come in a variety of shapes. The most common shapes are pompom, spider, football, and quilled florist mums.

Most people treat all mums as annuals as they are specifically seasonal to fall and will only bloom during that time. However, they are perennial by nature, so you can keep your mums in your landscape or a container all year round.

Asters and Mums

Mums are a part of the aster family, so all mums are asters, but not all asters are mums. Most asters come in cooler shades of white, blue, pink, and purple. They are derived from native perennials to provide late-season blooms for our local pollinators.

Mums in the Landscape

As stated previously, mums can be treated as annuals or perennials depending on how you want to use them. Here are some points to know when growing mums outdoors in your garden beds:

- All mums like 4-6 hours of direct sunlight.
- They need moist, well-draining soil, as well as the native soil to acclimate.
- Mulching is key to keeping your mums cool in the summer and warm throughout the winter.
- Mums get about 1-2 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide when planted in the landscape.
- Pay attention to issues such as leaf spot, powdery mildew, leaf miners, and spider mites. Triple Action from Fertilome is a great preventative spray to use on these issues. For more information on preventives to keep in your plant's medicine cabinet, check out Mike, the Garden Guru's webinar [here](#).
- Feed your mums in late April with our McDonald Garden Center Greenleaf granular fertilizer and again after the last pruning in late June.
- Deadhead and prune the mums to the ground after the first hard frost, when the foliage fades.

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Using Mums to Decorate

Because of their versatility, mums can be used for all kinds of fall decorating. Here are some of Mike's best tips and uses:

- Mums are amazing in containers, so try one in a simple terracotta pot or something more extravagant, depending on your tastes.
- Plant up your beds in mass for an immediate pop of color.
- Create a late-blooming flower garden of mums, goldenrod, asters, grasses, and sedums.
- Plant up your summer hanging baskets and window boxes for a fresh fall look.
- Pair with a spooky garden flag or your fall sports teams colors with combinations of pots and outdoor decor.

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