

Fall Plant Favorites

Fall Mums-Dendranthema morifolium

Mums come in hundreds of varieties adding a rainbow of color to your garden in late summer and fall while your summer annuals slowly fade. They easily complement many late blooming perennials and transition nicely into mixed container gardens with blossoms lasting through October. They require full sun (6+ hours of direct sunlight), very well-drained, nutrient rich soil, and 3-6" of mulch applied in late autumn for winter protection. Fertilize once in the spring and again in the summer with Whitney Farms or Osmocote. Pinch or shear the tips of your mums once a month at the beginning of May, June and July for bushy, beautiful flowering plants. Fall mums are considered to be a short lived perennial or an annual with potential to return in the garden. Plant them as early as possible for best root establishment and winter hardiness. Mums grown in container gardens can be wintered over in a cold garage and watered lightly once a month until they are ready to be placed back outside in the spring.*

Pansies & Violas-Viola x wittrockiana

These adorable, classic bloomers are one of the best flowering cold crops available and bursting with color from late summer, throughout fall, peaking through the snow in winter, and popping up again until late spring. They perform extremely well in containers or landscape beds that receive sun to partial shade (4+ hours of direct sunlight), cool, evenly moist, well-drained, nutrient rich soils. Fertilize with Whitney Farms or Osmocote during installation and again in spring. Deadhead regularly by removing the spent blossoms and stems back to the basal foliage. If plants grow leggy in the heat, then shear them back to a few inches, keep them moist and cool so they can re-flush when the temperatures become mild again. The new hybrid varieties will bloom vigorously and will often re-seed and produce more generations of violas if surrounded by a couple inches of mulch in late November or early December.*

Ornamental Cabbage & Kale-Brassica oleracea

Grow these handsome, ruffled heads of green with white, pink or purple foliage like any other annual cold crop. They prefer full sun (6+ hours of direct sunlight) and cool, fertile, well-drained soil. Both ornamental cabbage and kale can be eaten, but due to their bitter flavor they best serve as dynamic fall and winter displays in container gardens and landscape beds alongside pansies and ornamental grasses. Becoming available in the late summer with soft muted tones, their foliage becomes increasingly vibrant and intensely colored with each approaching fall frost. In fact, their color intensity and sturdy habit will last throughout winter provided they do not get too wet. Remove and compost the plants in spring when the temperatures increase and the foliage starts to yellow and dieback.*

Ornamental Peppers-Capsicum annum

No matter which variety you choose, these compact, productive, annual, hot chili peppers are eye-catching in the late summer used in containers or used as a decorative edging plant in the garden. Grow them in full sun (6+ hours of direct sunlight) and rich, well-drained soil. By the first hard fall frost they should be transitioned indoors and enjoyed as a windowsill plant. Their fruit is edible, no matter the size, shape or color, but may be extremely hot and spicy! Please use CAUTION when preparing and consuming these ornamental peppers.*

*Protect your Fall Favorites from wildlife damage with Plantskydd or Bonide Repels-All

