

Care Guide for Indoor Potted Chrysanthemums



Chrysanthemums (or mums) are beloved for their vibrant blooms and various colours. When grown indoors, they require specific care to thrive. By following these care tips, your indoor potted chrysanthemums can thrive, providing vibrant and lasting beauty to your home!

Light Requirements

- Chrysanthemums need bright, indirect sunlight to bloom well. Place the plant near a south- or east-facing window.
- Avoid direct afternoon sunlight, which can scorch the leaves. If natural light is limited, use a grow light.

Temperature and Humidity

- Ideal temperatures for mums are 60–70°F (15–21°C) during the day and slightly cooler at night (50–60°F or 10–15°C).
- Avoid placing them near drafts, heating vents, or air conditioners, as temperature fluctuations can stress the plant.
- Mums prefer moderate humidity. Increase humidity levels by misting the plant lightly or placing it on a tray of pebbles with water (ensure the pot doesn't sit in the water).

Watering

- Water chrysanthemums when the top inch of soil feels dry. Keep the soil evenly moist but never soggy.
- Avoid overwatering, as mums are prone to root rot. Ensure the pot has good drainage to prevent standing water.

Fertilizing

- During the blooming season, feed the plant with a balanced liquid fertilizer every 2–3 weeks to encourage lush blooms.
- Stop fertilizing once the blooming period ends to allow the plant to rest.

Deadheading and Pruning

- Remove faded or spent flowers promptly to extend the blooming period and encourage new buds to develop.
- Trim any yellowing or dead leaves to maintain the plant's health and appearance.
- After the blooms are spent, cut the stems back to about 4–6 inches above the soil to prepare the plant for dormancy.

Repotting

- Repot chrysanthemums annually after the blooming season if the plant has outgrown its container.
- Use a pot with drainage holes and fresh, well-draining potting soil. A mix containing peat moss, perlite, and compost is ideal.

Dormancy Care

- After blooming, mums may enter a period of dormancy. Reduce watering but do not let the soil dry out completely.
- Store the plant in a cool, dark place with temperatures around 40–50°F (4–10°C) during dormancy. Resume normal care in early spring when new growth appears.

Pest and Disease Management

- Common pests include aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. Treat infestations with insecticidal soap or neem oil.
- Prevent fungal diseases like powdery mildew by avoiding overhead watering and ensuring good air circulation around the plant.

Encouraging Re-blooming

- Chrysanthemums are photoperiodic, meaning their blooming is triggered by shorter daylight hours. To encourage re-blooming:
 - Provide 12–14 hours of darkness daily for 6 weeks in the fall.
 - Keep the plant in a cool room and avoid artificial light at night.

Additional Tips

- Chrysanthemums often benefit from being moved outdoors during warmer months. If you do this, slowly acclimate them to outdoor conditions to avoid shock.
- Pinch back stems during the growing season (spring and early summer) to promote a bushier shape and more flowers.

