

Leucanthemum

Amazing Daisies™



ZONE HARDINESS 5 – 9

NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 1.0 – 1.5

Moderate fertilization is recommended. 100 – 200 ppm N

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing/Growing on: 60 F Night – 65 F Day

Holding: 55 F Night – 60 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement.

WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist during all stages of growing. Plants grown too dry will often be shorter, exhibit a delay of flowering and produce fewer flowers. We find that once established, *Leucanthemum* can dry out more frequently. While they recover from dry down and can tolerate it, it's best to try to avoid it.

TIMING

Supernova® 28 Liner to Trade Gallon/True Gallon: 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 18. If a larger size is desired, we recommend planting these in the summer and doing additional bulking prior to vernalization.

50 Liner to Quart: 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 18. Planting a Standard 50 liner into a 1 gallon container and bulking in the summer/fall is also a great way to finish a larger high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Providing a cold treatment will produce more flowers per plant and provide earlier and more uniform flowering. *Leucanthemum* are cold beneficial, meaning they don't have to have cold for flowering, but providing at least six weeks of 35 F – 44 F temperatures is beneficial in growing a higher quality crop. Daisy May® flowers more readily and requires a lesser amount of cold treatment than 'Banana Cream.'

If purchased in the spring, our Supernova® 28 and 50 liners have been vernalized for proper flowering. If purchased in the summer/fall, the crop should be exposed to at least six weeks of 35 F – 44 F temperatures before forcing for more uniform and consistent flowering.

PLANTING

Leucanthemum perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. Keep the plugs in a cool bright place until it's time to plant. The plugs will often stretch in a short amount of time, if left in a dark, warm warehouse.

When growing perennials, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media as opposed to annual growing mixes that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long-term crops such as perennials.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

Leucanthemum is long-day beneficial and does not require long days for flowering and forcing. However, they will flower and finish faster when they are grown under long days. *Leucanthemum* will do okay in light shade in the summer.

During early spring forcing, plants should be given as much light as possible. Plants should be spaced such that they do not shade each other. Unspaced plants can stretch and lead to an undesirable look on the retail bench.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.

Leucanthemum Continued



TRIMMING/PINCHING

Do not pinch *Leucanthemum* after the plants have received their cold treatment or during forcing. Pinching removes some of the young flower buds, which can lead to either light flowering or inconsistent flowering. A pinch two weeks after transplant can and should be done if the customer wishes to grow and bulk their own crop in the fall prior to vernalization.

GROWTH REGULATORS

A 5ppm Sumagic® (uniconazole) spray or B-Nine® (daminozide) at 2,500ppm can be effective to control height.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Aphids, Caterpillars, Whiteflies, Four-lined Plant Bugs, Leafhoppers, Thrips and Spider Mites are the most prevalent insect pests associated with *Leucanthemum*. Scout and spray preventively for Botrytis, as this is the most prevalent foliar disease associated with *Leucanthemum*. Other foliar diseases should also be scouted for to prevent outbreaks of Alternaria, Erwinia, and Pythium. Additionally, Rhodococcus can be a problem on *Leucanthemum* and care should be taken to identify and spray preventatively for it. Wash cutting implements often while performing crop maintenance on *Leucanthemum* to prevent the spread of foliar diseases.

OTHER TIPS

When growing larger containers, it is best to bulk them in the summer/fall the year before they are to be sold.

