Spray Chrysanthemums – Growing Hints and Tips



Spray Chrysanthemums have become increasingly popular because they are easy to grow, are available in a vast range of colours, are useful for flower arranging and make a colourful late summer addition to the garden border. However, they will perform better in an open situation in well-drained soil and the following tips will help to produce the best results.

A month or so before planting, sprinkle the surface with 25-50g of lime per square metre and work it in just prior to planting with a balanced fertilizer.

Don't plant out before the end of April – if plants are received before that date, put them into 4" pots and harden them off. When planting out, take care not to damage the tender root hairs, and if there are several plants, place them about 18" apart. Stake with canes and tie up as they grow.

Keep the ground free from weeds, and during hot, dry spells, water the plants well, preferably in the evening, but be careful to avoid over-watering.

Plants will need to be stopped by removing the growing tip to encourage the production of side shoots. This is best done when the plants are growing strongly and are about 6-8" tall. For Spray Chrysanthemums, as many as 8 side shoots can be supported. At this stage, they can be left to develop naturally.

When the flowers are ready for cutting, do this in the morning or early evening to avoid hot, sunny conditions. To help the flowers last longer in the vase, it will help to dip the lower 2" of the stem into boiling water for about 15 seconds, then plunge immediately into cold water. You will find they last much longer.

Like most plants, Spray Chrysanthemums are not immune from pest and diseases. Keep an eye on your plants and take appropriate measures. The Trading Centre has a range of chemical products and can advise you.

And remember …. when showing, remove dead or faded blooms and poor foliage.