



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Chrysanthemum x superbum*<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

Also known as *Chrysanthemum maximum*, Shasta Daisy is a robust plant which will produce flowers on 2 ½ to 3-foot-tall stems. It can be maintained as a true perennial throughout its range but can only be grown as an annual in the central and southern half of Florida because the summer conditions are not appropriate. Shasta forms a rounded shape with many upright stems emerging from the ground. Plants spread slowly across the garden. The oblanceolate, dark green leaves are coarsely and bluntly toothed and may reach a length of 1 foot. The large, single, daisy-like flowers are clear white with a golden center and grow to about 2 to 3 inches across.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Chrysanthemum x superbum*  
**Pronunciation:** kriss-SANTH-ee-mum x soo-PUR-bum  
**Common name(s):** Shasta Daisy  
**Family:** *Compositae*  
**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 5B through 9A (Fig. 1)  
**Planting month for zone 7:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 8:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 9:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** cut flowers; mass planting; ground cover; attracts butterflies  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

### Description

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Plant habit:** upright  
**Plant density:** moderate  
**Growth rate:** moderate  
**Texture:** medium

#### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** serrate  
**Leaf shape:** linear  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** 8 to 12 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

#### Flower

**Flower color:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering; spring flowering

#### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** no fruit  
**Fruit length:** no fruit  
**Fruit cover:** no fruit  
**Fruit color:** not applicable

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-127, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

### Other

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

### Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; loam; clay;

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

### Use and Management

The Shasta Daisy flowers last 4 to 6 days in a vase of water after cut from the plant. They can be planted in the garden for this reason alone. They are also ideal for edging a walkway or for locating in front of a shrub or perennial border where they are effective as individuals or in groups.

The Shasta Daisy should be grown in the full sun in the northern part of its range on fertile, moist, well-drained soils. They often perform best in Florida in the partial shade. Taller growing varieties can be pinched before flower buds form to keep them from becoming lanky. Provide good air circulation to avoid disease problems.

There are numerous cultivars selected with various maximum heights with double and semi-double flowers.

The Shasta Daisy is propagated by seed or division. This plant reproduces quickly.

**Pests and Diseases**

The Shasta Daisy is occasionally bothered by leaf spots, stem rots, and leaf miners.