



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Chrysanthemum x superbum*¹

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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

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

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

Other

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.