

# Rose Blush<sup>TM</sup> Chrysanthemum

*The newest Mum from the University of Minnesota*



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Department of Horticultural Science

Peter Ascher, Neil Anderson, Vince Fritz, Steve Poppe, Tony Strasser, Roger Wagner, Dave Wildung\*

A rose new profusion of chrysanthemum color is now available to the gardening public from the University of Minnesota. The university announces its new 'Rose Blush' chrysanthemum.

'Rose Blush' was developed from a cross of two popular parents, 'Minnequeen' and 'Rosy Glow' mums. Both parents are also recent releases of the University of Minnesota garden chrysanthemum breeding program.

'Rose Blush' is noted for its profusion of blooms. They start early in the growing season and continue up to the first freeze. Its flowers are partially frost resistant.

'Rose Blush' blossoms start out mauve in color, but change in shade as the flower ages. And while this "fading" of flowers is not desirable in red or purple cultivars, it is an attractive feature with this flower color.

'Rose Blush' flowers are 2 to 3 inches in diameter, fully double, and of the flat decorative flower type. It blooms earlier than either 'Minnequeen' or 'Rosy Glow' mums. Flowering begins as early as July 29 in Minnesota. Full bloom is usually by August 11.

'Rose Blush' differs from 'Grenadine' and 'Dark Grenadine' (patents 5338 and 7632, Yoder Brothers, Barberton, Ohio) in bloom

size — it has larger flowers — plant habit, and earliness. In plant habit and shape, it closely resembles its 'Minnequeen' parent.

'Rose Blush' has a spreading plant habit with intermediate to stiff stems. Plant height is usually 13 to 17 inches; plant spread is 14 to 18 inches. Foliage is medium green and remains disease-free in appearance at trials in all field disease nurseries.

'Rose Blush' is adaptable to pot culture as a spring flowering plant under natural day photoperiods. The application of a chemical growth regulator is recommended for commercial production.

## Planting Time

Plant 'Rose Blush' chrysanthemums in the spring after all danger of killing frost has passed. Use small plants derived from rooted suckers of old plants or new plants from a local source. Larger plants in various stages of development may be planted anytime during the summer or early fall.

## Soil, Site, and Fertilizer

'Rose Blush' chrysanthemums grow best in full sun and well-drained soil. Incorporate peat moss, compost, or well-rotted barnyard manure and superphosphate (3 to 5 pounds per 100 square feet) into the soil. If you use peat moss or do not add organic matter, apply a commercial fertilizer in the spring (such as 5-10-5 or 10-10-10) according to package directions. Side dressing plants with a complete fertilizer in early August is recommended, especially in years of abundant rainfall or irrigation. A second application may not be needed if a 'slowly available' fertilizer is used in the spring.

## Cultivar Selection

'Rose Blush' chrysanthemums bloom before the end of September and are a good selection for the Twin Cities area. Later blooming cultivars fail to bloom before damaging or killing frosts in most years. Like most chrysanthemum cultivars, 'Rose Blush' will usually bloom earlier in northern Minnesota and later in southern Minnesota.

## Watering

Do not let 'Rose Blush' plants suffer from a lack of water. One good watering or rain per week, about one inch of water, is usually adequate.

## Insect and Disease Control

Spraying or dusting with an all-purpose insecticide-fungicide mixture twice a month from June through September is recommended for 'Rose Blush' chrysanthemums.

## Late Flowering

Possible causes for late flowering of 'Rose Blush' chrysanthemums include insufficient sun (shaded), fertilizer, or water; pinching too late; root competition from nearby trees and shrubs; unusually hot weather, especially nights, in August; unusually cold weather in August and September; and insect or disease injury.

## Over-Wintering

To safely carry 'Rose Blush' chrysanthemum plants over the winter, use one of these methods to prepare your plants in the fall:

- Dig plants in the fall and transfer them to pots, flats, or similar containers. Keep in a cold cellar over winter at a temperature between 33° and 38° F. Water occasionally.

- Dig plants in the fall and transplant into a cold frame in a protected location. After freezing weather (November), mulch heavily with leaves, hay, or straw.
- In late fall, remove rooted suckers from around the base of the plant. Pot and carry through winter as houseplants.

## Dividing

Although no chrysanthemum cultivars are consistently hardy under Minnesota's wintery conditions, as with other mums, sections of 'Rose Blush' clumps will frequently survive. If an entire clump does survive the winter, it is preferable to divide it into small clumps, each with two or three growing points, rather than allow it to continue growing as a single plant.

## Availability

'Rose Blush' may be propagated only by licensed parties. Firms or individuals desiring to propagate and merchandise cuttings of 'Rose Blush' must apply for a license. Contact Dr. Peter Ascher, Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, 1970 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. Individuals may also contact these licensed propagators: Dooley Gardens, Route 1, Hutchinson, MN 55350 (612/587-3050) or Donahue's Greenhouse, 420 10th Street Southwest, Fairbault, MN 55021 (507/334-8404).



'Rose Blush' compared to a selection of other popular University of Minnesota Chrysanthemum Cultivars

Variety *	Flower color	Plant Description	Height **	Time of bloom ***
Centennial Sun	Bright golden yellow	1 1/2" double decorative	Medium	Early
Centerpiece	Rose-lavender, gold centers	4" quill	Tall	Early to midseason
Gold Country	Peachy bronze to golden yellow	4" double, decorative	Tall	Midseason
Grape Glow	Bright rosy purple	3 1/2" flat decorative	Medium	Midseason
Lemonette	Lemon yellow	1" pom-pom	Low	Midseason
Lindy	Lavender pink	4 1/2" quilled incurve	Tall	Midseason
Maroon Pride	Rich dark red	3 - 3 1/2" flat decorative	Medium	Midseason
Mellow Moon	Cream	4 1/2" semi-incurve decorative	Medium	Midseason
Minicolumba	Ruddish bronze	3 1/2" normal decorative	Low	Midseason
Minnequeen	Crimson red	2 1/4" decorative	Low	Late
Minnequeen	Bright rose pink	3" decorative	Low-medium	Midseason
Minnequeen	Deep rose pink	1 1/2" pom-pom	Low	Midseason
Minnetta	White	2" decorative	Low	Early
Minnyellow	Rich lemon yellow	2" decorative	Low	Late
Rose Blush	Mauve	2 1/2" flat decorative	Medium	Early
Rosy Glow	Deep rosy pink	4" decorative incurve	Medium	Midseason
Sweetosa	White, cream centers	1 1/2" pom-pom	Low	Midseason

\* Names beginning with Minn indicate cushion habit of growth. Names ending with "sola" indicate a pom-pom flower type.

\*\* Low, up to 12 inches; medium, 12-18 inches; tall, over 18 inches. Height is for first year plants properly spaced and grown in full sun.

\*\*\* Twin Cities area plantings. Early starts blooming before September 1; midseason, September 1-15; late, September 15 or later.

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