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'Peach Centerpiece'



'Sesquicentennial Sun'



'Peach Centerpiece' | 'Sesquicentennial Sun'

New Chrysanthemums from the University of Minnesota
Department of Horticultural Science

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'Peach Centerpiece' and 'Sesquicentennial Sun' are the newest garden chrysanthemum releases from the renowned University of Minnesota herbaceous perennial breeding program.

'Peach Centerpiece' is a spontaneous mutation of 'Centerpiece' with moderately high winter hardiness, and above-average frost tolerance of its peach color flower petals.

'Sesquicentennial Sun', gold as 'Goldie Gopher,' provides completely frost tolerant flower petals, extended flowering, moderate winter hardiness, and strong stems.

Peach Centerpiece

'Peach Centerpiece' was found by Brad Walvatne, Lake Country Gardens, Battle Lake, Minnesota, and offered for release to the University of Minnesota. It is the 76th chrysanthemum released by the University of Minnesota breeding program. Its 'Centerpiece' parent was released in 1982.

'Peach Centerpiece' is a vigorous, uniform plant that usually begins blooming in the first week of September and continues until a killing frost. It is in the seven-week short day response group, and is a mid-season cultivar. Flower petals of 'Peach Centerpiece' possess above average frost resistance.



'Peach Centerpiece' produces a thick canopy of 4-inch (10 cm) peach-colored, single quill flowers with gold centers on plants 20 inches (50 cm) wide and 24 to 26 inches (60 to 65 cm) high. Dark green foliage, long stems, and an upright plant habit make 'Peach Centerpiece' a good cut flower cultivar.

'Peach Centerpiece' is suitable for pot plant culture and can be programmed to flower for spring and fall sales. It can also be grown as an herbaceous perennial, with moderately high winter hardiness. In replicated field trials without mulch or winter protection at University of Minnesota Research and Outreach Centers, winter survival averaged 80 percent in USDA Zone 4 in 1999.

To maximize winter survival, mulch the crown of 'Peach Centerpiece' in northern growing regions. Planting young, non-flowering specimens in the flower border in late spring or early summer is also recommended.

Spring flowering potted specimens purchased for Mother's Day or other spring holidays can be planted in the garden for fall flowering. Blooming plants purchased in pots late in the summer or early fall can be used to decorate patios and window boxes, and may then be plunged into the ground in pots or planted in a flower bed (pots removed) when summer blooming plants are no longer decorative.

Sesquicentennial Sun

'Sesquicentennial Sun' is the result of a cross of the mums 'Bandit' x 'Allure'. They were crossed in 1994 and 'Sesquicentennial Sun' was the only hybrid retained for future release after field performance trials.

With a brilliant bouquet of frost-tolerant flowers and its 'Golden Gopher' like color, 'Sesquicentennial Sun' was selected by the University as its floral contribution celebrating 150 years of achievements for Minnesota. It is the 77th chrysanthemum released by the University.

'Sesquicentennial Sun' produces a profuse flower display of fully double, pompon flowers up to two inches (2.5 to

5 cm) in size on uniformly mounded plants 12 to 18 inches (30 to 45 cm) high and 20 to 23 inches (55 to 62.5 cm) wide. It has dark green foliage, and stems of intermediate strength.

'Sesquicentennial Sun' is a short season, six-week short day response group cultivar. In southern Minnesota, flowering begins early August. In the St. Paul area and further north it begins blooming in late August to early September. Flowering continues until a killing freeze, usually in October.

Moderately frost tolerant with moderate to high winter hardiness (92 percent in USDA Zone 4 and 40 percent in USDA Zone 3), 'Sesquicentennial Sun' can be considered an improved replacement for 'Centennial Sun'. They have similar flower color, form, and floral display, though 'Sesquicentennial Sun' has a more compact flowering habit. 'Sesquicentennial Sun' outperforms 'Centennial Sun' in the fall after a frost.

To maximize winter survival, crowns of 'Sesquicentennial Sun' should be mulched in northern growing regions. Planting young, non-flowering specimens in the flower border in late spring or early summer is also recommended.

This cultivar adapts well to spring flowering in pots, using short or natural photoperiods to induce flowering. In the greenhouse, it can be used for cut flowers or as a flower border.

Availability

'Peach Centerpiece' and 'Sesquicentennial Sun' may only be propagated under license. To obtain a license, or to identify companies already propagating these mums, contact Jim Stolzenburg, Minnesota Nurserymen's Research Corporation, 1325 Bailey Road, St. Paul, MN 55119; jim.stolzenburg@mn-nursery.com; 651-459-9744. Stock plant material for both is available from Neil O. Anderson, Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, 1970 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55109; and@1044@umn.edu; 612-624-6701.



Chrysanthemum Culture

Planting Time – Mums should be planted in the garden after all danger of killing frost is past. Use small plants derived from rooted suckers or new plants from a local source. Larger plants may be planted during the summer or early fall.

Soil, Site, and Fertilizer – Garden mums 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 a 5-10-5 or 10-10-10) according to package directions.

Side dress plants with a complete fertilizer in early August. This second application may not be needed if a 'slowly available' fertilizer is used in the spring.

Watering – Do not let chrysanthemums 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 – Applying an all-purpose insecticide-fungicide twice a month from June through September is recommended.

Late Flowering – Cultivars usually bloom earlier in northern Minnesota and later in southern Minnesota. Possible causes of late flowering include insufficient sun, fertilizer, or water; pinching too late; root competition from nearby trees and shrubs; unusually

hot August weather, especially nights; unusually cold August and September weather; insect or disease injury.

Over-wintering – To carry chrysanthemum plants over the winter:

- Dig and pack in the fall. Overwinter in a cold cellar (32° to 38° F). Water occasionally.
- Transplant into a cold frame and mulch heavily after freezing.
- Pot in late fall, and carry through the winter as houseplants.

Pruning – Sections of chrysanthemums frequently survive Minnesota winters. If the entire clump survives, divide it into small clumps with two or three growing points in each, rather than allow it to continue growing as a single plant.

'Peach Centerpiece' and 'Sesquicentennial Sun' compared to other University of Minnesota commercial garden chrysanthemum cultivars. Names beginning with 'Mini' indicate a cushion habit of growth. Names ending with 'Pom' denote a pompon flower type.

Cultivar	Flower Color	Flower Size & Type	Weight	Time of Bloom
Peach Centerpiece	Peach	4" quill/pompon	Tall	Early to midseason
Burnt Copper	Copper orange-bronze	3" double pompon	Tall	Midseason
Centerpiece	Rose-lavender, gold centers	4" quill/pompon	Tall	Early to midseason
Gold Country	Peachy bronze to golden yellow	4" double decorative	Tall	Midseason
Mini autumn	Reddish bronze	2 1/2" formal decorative	Low	Midseason
Rose Blush	Mint	2 1/2" flat decorative	Medium	Early
Sesquicentennial Sun	Bright golden yellow	2" pompon	Medium	Early; frost-tolerant
Centennial Sun	Bright golden yellow	1 1/2" double decorative	Medium	Early
Gift Country	Peachy bronze to golden yellow	4" double decorative	Tall	Midseason
Inca	Light bronze-orange	2" double pompon	Low	Early
Lemonista	Lemon yellow	1" pompon	Low	Midseason
Miniyellow	Rich lemon yellow	2" decorative	Low	Late

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