

Chrysanthemum Growing Calendar

Month	Tasks
May – Late Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintain mulch, remove dead Chrysanthemum leaves- Prune and tie up wayward branches- Stop liquid feeding as flowers expand- Watch for pests and diseases. Treat as necessary- Consider protecting your blooms if a frost of -2°C or lower is forecast; while a sudden freeze may damage the flowers, the plant will survive to grow again next season.- Plan for next season and enjoy blooms
June – Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Winter Clean up - Prune your Chrysanthemums back to 10cm to 15cm above ground level.- Control slugs and snails. Left unchecked can stunt plant growth and even kill young plants.- Apply fungal spray and Fortified Neem Granules- Monitor soil drainage; divide clumps if desired
July – Mid-Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apply slow-release fertiliser (e.g., Tui's Novatech) and Water in thoroughly- Sharpen and clean garden tools

August – Late Winter

- Take cuttings from new shoots
- Keep slug and snail deterrents active

September – Early Spring

- Prepare the growing area for new plants. Choose a free-draining soil that has been enriched with aged manure or compost.
- Choose a location that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight in the height of Summer.

October – Mid-Spring

- Planting of new chrysanthemum plants begins
- Apply slow-release fertiliser around new plants - ie. Tui's Novetech and water in well
- After planting water your chrysanthemums in well and follow up with water every day for at least 3 days until you can see they have taken hold of their new growing position
- Apply Fortified Neem Granules and Slug control
- Start pest and disease protection

Systemic Insecticides and Systemic Fungicides can offer protection to a wide range of bugs and fungal diseases, ie, Yates Rose Guard has a Systemic Fungicide and Groventive has a Systemic Insecticide. Alternate the sprays fortnightly.

November – Late Spring

- First "stop" (tipping) plants. Remove the tops of your plants, leaving at least 6 leaves.
- Ensure consistent soil moisture as temperatures rise.
- Monitor for pests and disease and treat promptly

December – Early Summer

- Manage pests and fungi proactively
- Maintain consistent watering
- Continue tipping slower cultivars

January – Mid-Summer

- Prune or cut back your plants to 15cm above ground level (ideally before Jan 25th, later or earlier, cutting back can determine your bloom date). This second stop/cutting back sets up your plants for a healthy bloom.
- Fertilise with a slow-release flower-boosting food
- Set up flower supports (nets, stakes, wrought iron cages)

Anticipate Vigorous Growth from now on

February – Late Summer

- Watering. Maintain consistent moisture; water deeply during dry spells.
- From this point on, let any newly planted chrysanthemums grow through to flowering without further stopping or cutting back.
- Feeding: Apply a balanced liquid fertiliser if needed every two weeks to support growth. I use Yates Tomato Food with Molasses (½ Cup of Molasses to 7 litres of liquid feed)
- Train plants through nets or stakes and prune weaker stems off
- Pest and Fungal Disease Management: Stay vigilant, treat promptly.
- Consider protecting your blooms from autumn rains.

March – Early Autumn

- Disbudding: Remove side flower buds to encourage larger, showier blooms on main stems. Or remove the central bud to grow on as a spray, creating a fuller display of multiple smaller flowers.
- Maintain consistent soil moisture; water deeply during dry spells.
- Feeding with liquid fertiliser if they need it.
- Pest and Fungal Disease Management: Watch for late-season pests; address as needed. Botrytis on petals in wet, humid weather. (Rose Guard)

April – Mid-Autumn

- Continue watering without waterlogging the soil
- Pest and Fungal Disease Management: Watch for late-season pests; address as needed. Botrytis on petals in wet, humid weather. (Rose Guard)
- Enjoy the peak bloom and begin next season's planning