**Chrysanthemum - November birth flower**

Chrysanthemums are also called mums or chrysanths.
A Chrysanthemum bloom appears to be a single flower but is actually composed of hundreds of smaller flowers called florets. Each one of these florets can produce a seed, similar to its plant relative, the Sunflower.

The chrysanthemum is one of the most popular flowers, outshined only by the rose. It is a traditional flower to give on Mother’s Day.

Closely related to the daisy, Chrysanthemum resembles a close cousin the mugwort weed which is often called the wild Chrysanthemum - Native to India, as 'indicum' means 'Indian,' the flower can be found wild in most habitats in India, China, Japan, Indochina, Portugal, and other temperate and subtropical regions.

Below you can see eight of the 13 classes of chrysanthemums. They are based primarily on its bloom form. As you can see there is a wide configuration.

![Chrysanthemum Classes](image)

**Chrysanthemum History**

In Japan, the chrysanthemum was adopted as the official seal of the Emperor following its introduction in that country in the 8th century AD. The Japanese Festival of Happiness is a celebration of the mum.

Chrysanthemums were first cultivated as a flowering herb in China in the 15th century BC with over 500 cultivars in existence by the early 1600’s.

The flower was brought to the Western World in the 17th century. It was named by Carolus Linnaeus from the Greek prefix chrys-, which means golden (the color of the original flowers), and -anthemon, meaning flower - thus golden flower.

The flower was introduced to United States in the late 1700’s when an imported variety identified as Dark Purple arrived from England courtesy of Colonel John Stevens. Enomoto Brothers of Redwood City, CA (San Mateo County) grew the first chrysanthemums to be grown in America. They are native to Asia and northeastern Europe. Most species originate from East Asia and the center of diversity is in China and have become the most widely cultivated flowers in the world.

**Chrysanthemum Symbols**

The secret meaning of the mum is “You’re A Wonderful Friend.”
Symbolizes cheerfulness, rest, loveliness, optimism, joy, abundance, wealth.
Red means true love or “I love you.”
Yellow means slighted love or wounded heart. 
White means truth, virtue of honesty, innocence, purity, and pure love.

**Chrysanthemum in The Garden**

Chrysanthemums are generally of two basic groups: The Garden Hardy variety and the Exhibition variety. Although the perfume of a rose can summon an idea of paradise, the chrysanthemum’s fragrance conjures a den of feral cats.

The Garden hardy mum are new perennials and as the name suggests, are a sturdy bunch, capable of being wintered over in the ground in most Northern latitudes. They are capable of producing an abundance of small blooms with the least assistance and are able to withstand adverse weather conditions such as wind and rain.

**Chrysanthemum History**

In Japan, the chrysanthemum was adopted as the official seal of the Emperor following its introduction in that country in the 8th century AD. The Japanese Festival of Happiness is a celebration of the mum.

Chrysanthemums were first cultivated as a flowering herb in China in the 15th century BC with over 500 cultivars in existence by the early 1600’s.

The flower was brought to the Western World in the 17th century. It was named by Carolus Linnaeus from the Greek prefix chrys-, which means golden (the color of the original flowers), and -anthemon, meaning flower - thus golden flower.

The flower was introduced to Untied States in the late 1700’s when an imported variety identified as Dark Purple arrived from England courtesy of Colonel John Stevens. Enomoto Brothers of Redwood City, CA (San Mateo County) grew the first chrysanthemums to be grown in America. They are native to Asia and northeastern Europe. Most species originate from East Asia and the center of diversity is in China and have become the most widely cultivated flowers in the world

**Chrysanthemum Symbols**

The secret meaning of the mum is “You’re A Wonderful Friend.” Symbolizes cheerfulness, rest, loveliness, optimism, joy, abundance, wealth.
Red means true love or “I love you.”
Yellow means slighted love or wounded heart.
White means truth, virtue of honesty, innocence, purity, and pure love.

**Chrysanthemum in The Garden**

Chrysanthemums are generally of two basic groups: The Garden Hardy variety and the Exhibition variety. Although the perfume of a rose can summon an idea of paradise, the chrysanthemum’s fragrance conjures a den of feral cats.

The Garden hardy mum are new perennials and as the name suggests, are a sturdy bunch, capable of being wintered over in the ground in most Northern latitudes. They are capable of producing an abundance of small blooms with the least assistance and are able to withstand adverse weather conditions such as wind and rain.

The right chrysanthemum flowers for your garden will come from a diverse selection of hardy or garden mums. When growing mums, you’ll find plants that are dwarf to giant, in colors from white and yellow to the deepest burgundy and purple. Some cultivars bloom in late summer, while others bloom as late as
October. Garden mums are usually planted in the spring, and will bloom all summer and autumn. With plenty of time to put down roots, garden mums can live for three to four years in USDA zones 5-9.

**Exhibition mum.** Or mums, because there is a dozen or more forms and scores of varieties that are variably cute, exotic or simply stunning. All of them are interesting and fulfill this plant’s promise. Cinderella shall go to the ball. Some single blooms are the size of your head, others form tubular petals with openings redolent of tiny spoons, others raise the flower to a delicious tangle of threadlike petals.

**Culinary uses**

Yellow or white chrysanthemum flowers of the species *C. morifoliu* are boiled to make a sweet drink. The resulting beverage is known simply as *chrysanthemum tea* and used in many parts of Asia. (菊 花 茶, pinyin: júhuā chá, in Chinese).

Chrysanthemum leaves are steamed or boiled and used as greens, especially in Chinese cuisine. The flowers may be added to thick snake meat soup (蛇羹) to enhance the aroma.

Small chrysanthemums are used in Japan as a sashimi garnish.

In Korea, Gukhawaju is a rice wine flavored with chrysanthemum flowers.

**Chrysanthemum for medicinal purposes**

The chrysanthemum flower is actually a powerful antiseptic and antibiotic! Chrysanthemum tea is said to cool the body, clear the liver, support immunity, recovery from influenza, to lower cholesterol, reduce high blood pressure, angina, relax the nervous system and slows aging.

The drink combined with other herbs, they are said to increase in potency and assist with dizziness and eyestrain as well as improving vision and comforts the eyes.

Another health benefit in the use of chrysanthemum tea is that it is believed ancient Chinese medicine points to chrysanthemum tea as offering long-term benefits related to blood and weight.

**Chrysanthemum Notes:**

The term "chrysanthemum" is also used to refer to a certain type of fireworks shells that produce a pattern of trailing sparks similar to a chrysanthemum flower.

King Tut (Tutankhamen) was said to have been buried wearing floral collars of chrysanthemums and insects are repelled by resins of the plant.

Resins of the plant are used in incense cones to ward off insects.

Chrysanthemum plants have been shown to reduce indoor air pollution by the NASA Clean Air Study. flower is also a symbol of the sun.

Both the Chinese and Japanese consider chrysanthemums a powerful emblem of youth. A petal placed in the bottom of a glass of wine is thought to enhance longevity. The Chinese also believe that it prevents gray hair.

**Pyrethrum** (Chrysanthemum cineraria folium) can be used as a natural source of insecticide.

These plants can be very toxic, particularly to cats, dogs and horses and can cause dermatitis in humans. They are considered to be safest insecticides for use around food and being biodegradable when exposed to light, they are also considered to be an eco-friendly product.
References:
http://birth-flower.com/november/
http://www.proflowers.com/blog/november-birth-flower-chrysanthemum
http://www.almanac.com/content/november-birth-flower
https://www.babiesonline.com/flowersbirthmonth/Chrysanthemum.asp
http://www.whatsmybirthflower.com/november-birth-flower/
http://www.whatsmybirthflower.com/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrysanthemum
http://www.howdогardener.com/chrysanthemums-%E2%80%93-a-fall-classic.html
https://notableinklings.wordpress.com/chrysanthemums/
https://notableinklings.wordpress.com/chrysanthemums/
http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/chrysanthemum/growing-chrysanthemum-flowers.htm
https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/the-hidden-world-of-exhibition-chrysanthemums/2015/10/20/ef9a7c54-736d-11e5-8248-98e0f5a2e830_story.html
https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/chrysanthemum/chrysanthemum-lifespan.htm