

Gerbera

Gerbera is the most elegant of the daisy flowers. It has lovely 2–5 inch blooms and have a prominent disk shaped center with simple petals all around. The blooms sit atop long hollow stems. It is excellent as a cut flower for arrangements. Gerbera's come in many different colors, but all are cheery to say the least. Easy to grow and sure to make you smile.



Size: Short round rosettes that don't get too tall.

Exposure: Partial shade in the warmer climates

How to Plant: Plant from 4" nursery pots for best results. Plant about 2' apart. Plant the crown slightly above the soil level to avoid rot.

Pruning: Just remove dead leaves or spent stems and blossoms.

Water: Water deeply and let soil dry out between watering.

Fertilization: Use regular liquid plant fertilizer monthly.

Soil: Use organically enriched soil with excellent drainage. Amend soils with compost and humus.

Propagation: Divide crowded clump when flowering declines. Best divided in the late winter.

Snapshot: Gerbera also known as Transvaal Daisy, are easy to grow. They grow well in zones 8-9 and 12-24, other zones treat as an annual. In hotter climates treat as a winter annual but will last longer during a cool spring. Gerbera plants grow in a shorter clump that sends up 10" long sturdy stems, each bearing one stately flower. The newer hybrids come in cream, yellow, and coral, orange, red and some have different colors on each side of the petal. Petal shapes now come in fringed, double, shredded extra large and now mini Gerbera's are available. There are over 300 varieties. For cut flowers, slit the bottom inch of the stem before placing in water. Keep vase water clean.

Novella Springer
Calaveras Master Gardener
San Andreas
3/15/13