



2442 State Route 27 ~ North Brunswick, NJ 08823 ~ (732) 297-1244 ~ Open Seven Days

Gerbera Daisy

Gerbera daisy (*Gerbera Jamesonii*) also known as African daisy, Barberton Daisy, and Transvaal Daisy originates from South Africa, Madagascar to South American and tropical Asia.

Gerbera daisy is known for its bright vivid colors and large daisy-like flowers that grow on bare stems 10-18 inches tall. It is hardy in zones 9-10 and usually grown as an annual or tender perennial that can be brought inside during the winter. This eye-catching flower attracts bees and butterflies. In a NASA study for indoor air improvement, Gerbera proved effective in removing chemical vapors and toxic gases.*



Culture Gerbera daisy should be planted in rich well-drained soil. As with many plants, they don't like wet, soggy soil. If you have clay soil, one that holds moisture and stays wet, then you will need to amend the soil by adding organic material such as peat moss, compost, etc. to improve drainage. If the soil cannot be amended, then a raised bed or container is suggested. Plant the crowns above the soil level, too deep will invite crown rot.

Plant it in a sunny location protected from the hot afternoon sun. Full sun is best for more flower production. Water early in the day and allow it to dry slightly between watering. Avoid overhead watering. **Improper watering and poor drainage** will lead to problems such as crown rot and poor flower production. Feed monthly with a 1/2 strength balanced fertilizer and every two weeks during the flowering period (spring and summer). Maintain the plant by removing spent flowers and old leaves.

Propagation

Gerbera daisy can be started from seed 10-20 weeks before the last frost. No pretreatment is required. After collection, **seeds** should be germinated within 1-2 months. Plant the seed pointed end down and do not cover completely as they need light to germinate which should take 15-25 days. Once the weather is warm and danger of frost has passed, move them outdoors. They may even reseed themselves during the summer. Keep in mind that plants grown from seed may differ from the parent plant. You can also divide the plant in the spring or take basal cuttings in the summer and dip in rooting hormone.

Not only is Gerbera daisy attractive in the garden or as a potted plant; they are also a favorite in the **cut flower** industry. The **long vase life** of up to 14 days and a myriad of available colors make this a favorite for floral designers. Hybridizers have produced hundreds of varieties with almost every color available except for blue and purple.

*Eco Friendly House Plants/Wolverton