

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH411



LEUCANTHEMUM PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Shasta daisy
- Scientific name: *Leucanthemum superbum*
- Native to Europe, north Africa, and temperate regions of Asia
- Perennial growing from clumped rhizomes; reaches 1-3' in height
- Narrow, smooth, deeply toothed leaves grow 1½-3'' in length
- Daisy-like flowers have a ring of white petals with yellow centers
- Flowers grow from 2-6'' across and bloom from June to August

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in full sun or partial shade

- Prefers rich, moist, well-drained media, but will tolerate dry, thin soil such as that found along the seashore
- Requires regular watering due to a shallow root system
- Fertilize in spring with a general purpose slow acting fertilizer
- Mulch with a 2-3 inch layer of organic material

PROPAGATION

- Best propagated by division every 2-3 years
- Divide in early spring when plants first begin to send up green shoots
- Separate vigorously growing shoots from the root clump; discard old woody central parts of the clump

- Space plants 18'' apart when transplanting newly divided sections
- Can be propagated from seed; sow seeds indoors before last frost or directly in the garden after last frost

DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
 - White coating forms on leaves
 - Leaves wilt, brown, and drop
 - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- *Botrytis* gray mold
 - Attacks leaves in cool, damp environments
 - Thin plants to improve air circulation
 - Improve soil drainage
 - Remove badly infected plants
- Aphids
 - Suck plant sap from newly formed shoots and leaves
 - Dislodge with a hard spray of water
 - Handpick and remove heavily infected stems

CONSUMER CARE

- Plants produce tall stems that may require staking
- Remove dead flowers to extend the blooming period
- When plants finish blooming cut back dead stems to soil level
- Plants are attractive to bees and butterflies

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Leucanthemum superbum*
 - 'Becky': white flowers
 - 'Crazy Daisy': double white petals with soft yellow centers
 - 'Snow Lady': single white flowers

References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leucanthemum>
<http://www.yardener.com/ShastaDaisy.html>

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