

## **Timely Tip for October Gardeners from Cornelius Nursery: Fresh Fall Color**

Transform the appearance of your landscape with fresh, colorful blooms. Blooming Garden Mums offer a wide range of instant Fall color. Choose plants which are just showing color and you will enjoy them longer. Select an area that gets at least six hours of sun a day. Dianthus (also known as “Pinks”), Snapdragons, Cyclamen, Violas and the fragrant Alyssum are also good choices for cooler weather annuals. Ornamental Cabbage and Kale provide striking foliage forms in the landscape as well as colorful foliage. For best effect, limit your plantings to two or three colors per bed.

The key to growing beautiful annual flowers is soil preparation. Select a well drained flowerbed and add lots of organic matter. **Calloway’s Flower Bed Mix**, contains compost plus a boost of fertilizer, water-management crystals and a wetting agent. Add either **Calloway’s Flower Food** or **Blood and Bone Meal** to the soil at planting to provide the extra nutrients for growth and blooms. When removing the plant from its container, carefully score the roots with a knife if they are growing in the shape of the container. This will encourage the growing of additional roots and produce a sturdier plant. Apply 2-3 inches of mulch to reduce moisture loss and to insulate the soil.

These same annuals can be used in patio containers. Fill your containers with fresh potting soil and plant food. Keep them watered as necessary. “Deadheading” or pinching off faded blooms will encourage repeat blooming.

Drop by any Cornelius Nursery and visit with a Texas Certified Nursery Professional for all your planting needs. Remember, Fall is a great time for planting!