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| **garden girl version 2 (non-editable web-ready file).jpg** | **Plants 101:**  **What you need to know (and nothing you don’t)**  **Mums:**  **No fall would be complete without them. It’s like Milk and cookies. They are simple if you follow these tidbits.** |
| Watering:  Mums are waterhogs if the sun is shining and it’s over 80 degrees. In hot summer weather I usually water them every morning. Keep them moist like a wrung out sponge, not soaking wet. | Fertilizing:  I feed my mums until Halloween with a higher phosphorus fertilizer (it’s the middle number) once a week and that really helps keep them blooming and get them rooted if I’m putting them in the ground |
| Container or Ground?  I have done both and although I hate for anything to die, sometimes I just don’t get them in the ground soon enough. I watch the weather and put them in the ground by mid October if we are having a warm fall. The key is get them established before the soil temps get to low. If they are just for decoration then just water, deadhead, and feed… then let old man winter take them to their grave. | Care:  Deadhead blooms as often as you can for a few reasons. If fed right, they will keep shooting out flowers and you need to keep the dead ones off to promote that so the feed is going to the new flowers and also so the sun can get to the new growth which is usually hiding under an old bloom. In November or when they are done, I simply cut the plant back by ½ and stuff leaves throughout the branches and around the base. |