

# Chrysanthemum

## Harvesting

The correct stage of harvesting depends upon the cultivar, marketing and purposes etc. The flowers are harvested 3 months from the date of planting at an interval of 4 days.

For floral decoration and garlands, fully opened flowers are plucked with or without the peduncle. Flowers are packed loose in bamboo baskets or gunny bags and sent to retail markets for sale.

### Harvesting of Cutflowers:

Types of Chrysanthemum	Period of Harvest
Standard variety	When 40-50% of the bloom is fully open.
Dwarf variety	When 80-85% of the blooms has opened.
Spray variety	When 40-50% of the bloom has opened.
Single	When the maximum number of flowers open, but before the pollen shed from the outer row of the disc florets.
Anemone	Before the central cushion in the top most flowering fully developed.

Generally harvesting is done early in the morning. The stems are cut 20 cm from the ground and are collected in trays or buckets containing cold water (15-18°C) and a floral preservative (Silver nitrate 25 ppm). Alternately, the harvested stems are kept in 1000 ppm Silver nitrate, for 10 seconds-10 minutes followed by placing in deionized water to prevent the blockage of xylem by the microorganisms

### Yield :

The yield of flowers varies according to types of cultivars, growing region, plant density and other management practices. The average yield of loose flowers varies widely from 8-15 tonnes/ ha.

In southern states, the crop remains in the field for about ten months if it is ratooned (six months for plant crop and four months for ratoon crop). Ratooning is seldom done now days. Improved varieties like CO.1 and CO.2 yields upto 1 t/ha in Tamil Nadu.