



gerbera



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Gerbera jamesonii—Transvaal daisy, Barberton daisy, African daisy, Veldt daisy

in-store and consumer care

LIGHT These plants require bright light, including some exposure to direct sun.

WATER *Gerbera* plants need moderately moist soil. Water them thoroughly when the soil surface is dry to the touch. Be careful, however, not to overwater, and do not allow pots to stand in water.

TEMPERATURE Moderate temperatures are preferred. When flowering, potted *Gerberas* like daytime temperatures between 65 F and 70 F and nighttime temperatures from 60 F to 65 F. During the winter, do not expose these plants to temperatures lower than 55 F.

HUMIDITY *Gerbera* plants prefer humid environments. Place pots on a pebble tray, or mist leaves frequently in spring and summer, if the relative humidity level needs to be raised.

FERTILIZER Feed potted *Gerberas* weekly during their blooming cycles.

SOIL Loose, humus-rich soil or a standard soil mix with sand is preferred.

GROOMING Cut off flowers as they fade.

REPOTTING After the first set of blooms fade, weather permitting, transplant the plant into a patio pot, and enjoy for the rest of the

BOTANICAL NAME

Gerbera jamesonii
(GUR-bur-uh jaym-SO-nee-eye)
(also JUR-bur-uh, jur-BEE-ruh,
gur-BEE-ruh and JAYM-sun-eye)

COMMON NAMES

Transvaal daisy, Barberton daisy,
African daisy, Veldt daisy

DESCRIPTION

Gerberas' large daisylike (composite) blooms, including single, double, semi-double, quilled and crested flower types, generally range from 2 to 3½ inches in diameter and stand on leafless stems above a base of crinkly, deeply lobed leaves. The

newer, compact varieties of potted *Gerberas* usually reach 6 to 12 inches in height, depending on pot size, which range from 4 to 6 inches.

COLORS

Gerberas are available in a variety of warm, usually vibrant, hues including reds, pinks, orange/peach/salmon/apricot, yellows and cream/ivory/white as well as bicolors.

DECORATIVE LIFE

In ideal environments and with proper care, potted *Gerberas*' bloom cycles can span from two to six weeks, depending on variety.

AVAILABILITY

Gerbera plants are available year-round.



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season. In colder regions, store the plant indoors or in a greenhouse during the winter months. Some people choose to discard *Gerbera* plants, which are grown from seed, following their initial blooming cycle.

challenges

PESTS Watch closely for whiteflies. Treat infested plants with insecticidal soap.

DISEASES Powdery mildew, a fungal growth that appears as a dusty white to gray coating on leaf surfaces or other plant parts, can occur. On indoor plants, powdery mildew can be removed by rubbing the leaves, in most cases. For severe cases, spray the plant with a commercial plant fungicide. In addi-

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME The genus *Gerbera* is named after Traugott Gerber, an 18th-century German medical doctor and naturalist who was the director of the oldest botanical garden in Moscow, taught medicine at the university and created a medical garden to educate medical students in herbology.

The species epithet, *jamesonii*, was given in honor of Robert Jameson (1832-1908), a Scottish condiment manufacturer who collected live specimens of these plants while on a gold prospecting expedition in Barberton, South Africa, in 1884.

HOME SWEET HOME *Gerberas* are native to South Africa. **sfr**

tion, reduce the relative humidity around the plant, and gather and dispose of fallen leaves.

Some information provided by:

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Dictionary of Plant Names, by Allen J. Coombes
Flowering & Foliage Plants Book 2

by The John Henry Company

The Houseplant Encyclopedia

by Ingrid Jantra and Ursula Kruger

The New House Plant Expert, by Dr. D.G. Hessayon

New Pronouncing Dictionary of Plant Names

by Florists' Review

Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners

by William T. Stern