

“Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners”

Shasta Daisy by Shawn Tasch

***Leucanthemum x Superbum* ‘Becky’ and ‘Crazy Daisy’**

Common name: Shasta Daisy

Family: Asteraceae

My love for this daisy is simply because its appearance is stunning! It is a flower that is classic in its form and has been enjoyed for many generations. My grandmother used to grow it on each side of her front entrance in two huge cement pots. She would deadhead them as needed and in the fall their leaves resembled mums. They were still very attractive without the flowers. I see them frequently when I photograph weddings in the summer. They provide a country-rustic effect for weddings which is a popular theme in our area.



I have two plants in my backyard which I obtained from a previous neighbor who I caught throwing one out not knowing it was a perennial. I took the plant, divided it, and because of its low maintenance, I haven't had to do anything to it except watch it grow the last few summers. And it has no problem with my clay soil in my garden. That is a big bonus for anything in my yard.



I don't know if one cultivar is better than the other however, I have the Crazy Daisy variety which is more forgiving to the eye since it hides for a longer period of time when the petals begin to drop because they are almost doubled upon each other.

I like to pair the daisy with another bold flower commonly known as Indian Blanket flower. They look stunning together! This daisy attracts butterflies and other small insects in the garden. While I was researching this plant, I found that this flower used to have the genus name of Chrysanthemum.

Shasta Daisies like full sun and it will grow best in a PH neutral soil that can be clay, loam or silt. It does like good drainage and should be planted one foot apart. It will grow in Zones 8a and 8b. It is a non-native hybrid. The Shasta daisy flower can be 2-5 inches wide. It is yellow and white in color and blooms in the spring and summer. It can be deciduous or semi-evergreen.

Photos by Shawn Tasch

Source: North Carolina State Extension the Plant Gardener

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/leucanthemum-x-superbum/>

May 2020