



Last year, my garden mums grew really leggy.

How do I keep them compact, like when you buy them? Pinching or cutting off the stem tips will cause mums to branch out and stay more compact. Do this when the plants are 6 inches tall, and again a few weeks later (but no later than the 4th of July). The next time you buy mums, look for cushion- or carpet-type mums, which stay low and compact without pinching.



PLANTINGS

bring it on

Augusta Blue Skies cupflower (*Nierembergia*) can take all the heat Mother Nature can dish out, which makes it ideal for hot, full sun locations next to pavement or exposed walls. A low, mounding annual, it blooms all summer, covering itself in purple flowers until frost. It thrives with regular water but needs good drainage. Go to [provenwinners.com](http://provenwinners.com) to locate a retailer near you. 📍

READER SHOPPING



happy zinnias

From page 134 we created a sampler of six varieties of brilliant-hued zinnias—they'll make a cheerful, intensely colored garden. Get your vases ready!

TO ORDER THE ZINNIA SAMPLER

item MM087236 for \$29.95 plus shipping, call White Flower Farm, 800/420-2852, or visit [readersshopping.com](http://readersshopping.com).