

gerberas



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

in-store and consumer care

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

WATER *Gerbera* plants need evenly moist soil. Water them thoroughly when the soil surface is dry to the touch, and allow water to drain. Be careful, however, to not 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, these plants can tolerate temperatures as low as 55 F.

BOTANICAL NAME

Gerbera jamesonii
(*GUR-bur-uh jaym-SAWN-ee-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

Potted *Gerberas*' large daisylike (composite) blooms, including single, double, quilled, crested, cushion and "feather"-petaled flower types, generally range from 2 to 3 1/2 inches in diameter and stand on leafless stems (scapes) 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 typically range from 4 to 6 inches in diameter.

COLORS

Gerberas are available in a variety of warm, often vibrant, hues including red, burgundy, magenta, fuchsia, pink, red-orange, orange, peach, salmon, apricot, yellow, cream and white as well as bicolors. The center disc, or eye, can be yellow, green, brown, black or dark red-violet.

DECORATIVE LIFE

Depending on environment, care and variety, potted *Gerberas*' bloom cycles can span from two to four weeks.

AVAILABILITY

Gerbera plants are available year-round.

HUMIDITY *Gerbera* plants prefer humid environments but with good air circulation. Place pots on a pebble tray or frequently mist the leaves of plants in dry indoor environments.

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY Low; these plants are fairly resistant to the effects of ethylene gas.

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 / REBLOOMING After the first set of blooms fade, weather permitting, transplant the plant into a patio pot, and enjoy outdoors. 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.

CARE EXTRAS Handle these plants with care because leaves and flower stems can break easily. Advise customers to do the same.

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. It can be removed by rubbing the leaves, in most cases. For severe cases, remove infected plant parts, and spray the plant with a plant fungicide. In addition, reduce the relative humidity around the plant, improve air circulation, and gather and dispose of fallen leaves.

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 specific epithet (species name), *jamesonii*, is 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.

The common names—Transvaal daisy, Barberton daisy and Veldt daisy—come from the flowers' origin: Transvaal is the former name of the northeastern province of South Africa to which these flowers are native; Barberton is a town in that region; and "veldt" is a term applied to the grassy plateaus of this region of South Africa.

FAMILY MATTERS *Gerberas* are a member of the huge *Asteraceae/Compositae* family. Close relatives include *Asters*, sunflowers, chrysanthemums, *Dahlias*, *Zinnias*, marigolds, bachelor's buttons, black-eyed *Susans* and *Calendulas*.

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



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