



FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	Common Zinnia
Botanical Name:	Zinnia elegans
Family:	Asteraceae
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Annual Flower
Season of Bloom:	Summer to first frost

Zinnia is a genus of 20 species of annual and perennial plants native to South- and Central America, primarily Mexico, and the Southwest United States. The name of the genus derives from the German botanist Johann Gottfried Zinn (1727 – 1759). Only three species are regularly grown in home gardens. The **common zinnia** is available in tall, medium, and dwarf varieties, and in virtually every color except blue. Over 100 cultivars have been produced since selective breeding started in the 19th century. One of the reasons for the popularity of the zinnia is the diversity of its forms. Flower forms may be single, double, or semidouble, with some resembling beehives, cactus spines, or buttons. After marigolds, zinnias are probably the easiest flowers in the world to grow from seed.



In some areas, the common zinnia is known as **Old maid flower**. Butterflies are attracted to it and zinnias make a good cut flower, either fresh or dried. Often referred to as “cut and come again” flowers, cutting one flower stem above a pair of leaves produces two new stems with flower buds to take their place in a matter of just days. Look for the award-winning ‘Profusion’ zinnia in the King’s Garden, a new addition for 2007.

Popular relatives of Zinnia elegans are **Creeping zinnia** (*Zinnia angustifolia*) and **Mexican zinnia** (*Zinnia haageana*).

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