

Leucanthemum heterophyllum



Doubling Your Daisy Delight: Propagating Leucanthemum heterophyllum

Leucanthemum heterophyllum, more commonly known as the Portuguese daisy or the Santa Barbara daisy, is a cheerful addition to any garden. With its charming white petals and sunny yellow centers, this perennial brightens up landscapes from late spring to fall. But what if you could double, triple, or even quadruple the daisy delight in your garden? Well, you can! Propagating Leucanthemum heterophyllum is surprisingly easy, and we're here to guide you through the process.

Why Propagate?

Propagating plants is essentially creating new plants from existing ones. There are several reasons why this is a great idea:

- **Cost-effective:** Starting new plants from your existing Leucanthemum heterophyllum is much cheaper than buying new ones from a garden center.
- **Increases your plant stock:** Want a whole border of these

lovely daisies? Propagation is the way to go.

- **Preserves desirable traits:** If you have a particularly vigorous or beautiful *Leucanthemum heterophyllum*, propagation ensures you maintain these desirable traits.

Two Main Methods for *Leucanthemum heterophyllum*:

1. Division:

Division is the most common and straightforward way to propagate *Leucanthemum heterophyllum*. Here's how:

- **Timing:** The best time to divide is in early spring or fall, when the plant is dormant or just starting to come out of dormancy.
- **Digging up:** Carefully dig up a mature clump of *Leucanthemum heterophyllum*, ensuring you get as much of the root system as possible.
- **Dividing the clump:** Use a sharp, clean garden knife or spade to divide the clump into smaller sections. Each section should have a good amount of roots and several healthy shoots.
- **Replanting:** Replant your divided sections immediately in well-prepared soil. Water thoroughly and keep the soil consistently moist until the divisions are established.

2. Seed Starting:

While less common, starting *Leucanthemum heterophyllum* from seed is also achievable:

- **Seed collection:** Collect seeds from spent flowers in the fall. Allow them to dry thoroughly.
- **Sowing:** Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last expected frost. Sow seeds in seed starting mix, barely covering them with soil.
- **Light & Water:** Place the seed tray in a bright location but out of direct sunlight. Keep the soil consistently moist.

- **Transplanting:** Once seedlings have at least two sets of true leaves and all danger of frost has passed, harden them off gradually before transplanting outdoors.

Tips for Success:

- **Healthy Parent Plant:** Always start with a healthy and vigorous *Leucanthemum heterophyllum*.
- **Well-Drained Soil:** Ensure the soil is well-drained to prevent root rot.
- **Consistent Moisture:** Provide consistent moisture during the establishment period for both divisions and seedlings.
- **Sunlight:** *Leucanthemum heterophyllum* thrives in full sun to partial shade.

Expanding your Daisy Dominions:

Propagating your own *Leucanthemum heterophyllum* is a rewarding experience. Not only will you save money and multiply your plant stock, but you'll also gain a deeper understanding of the plant's life cycle. So, roll up your sleeves, get your hands dirty, and let the daisy propagation begin!