



The Associated Press  
Chrysanthemums come in many shapes and sizes.

## Now's time to pinch mums for the fall

*A little pruning during summer makes a difference*

BY LEE REICH  
For The Associated Press

Chrysanthemums run the gamut, from bushy mounds covered with blossoms to stately, upright plants capped by one or just a few humongous blooms. Their colors and forms of flowers are equally variable.

Generally, you just buy the mums you like, plant them, then do nothing more than enjoy their blossoms. If you'd like to bring out the very best from any mum plant, however, pinch it a little here and there. A pinch is nothing more than pruning off with your thumb and index finger the last half-inch of stem.

And summer's the time to do it.

### Mums are aware of summer's progress

No matter how you pinch-prune mums, keep in mind that these plants form flower buds in response to shortening days and cooler temperatures. The number of short days needed to induce flower buds depends on the variety of mum, with low, cushion mums needing the least number of days and large flowered mums needing the most. Some of the larger mums flower so late that they must be grown in a greenhouse or in pots brought indoors in autumn. Once a plant changes gears and starts entering the flowering mode, it responds differently to pruning than when it was vegetative (just growing stems and leaves).

### Business in a pinch

Out in the garden, a mum that is naturally bushy might look better if it was even more bushy. Promote bushiness by pinching each shoot beginning when it is 6 inches tall. Repeat this pinching each time shoots grow an additional 6 inches. Stop all this pinching no later than 90 days before the normal bloom date.

July is when most of these plants start to develop flower buds and you don't want to remove those buds.

### Pick your pinch for big blossoms

Growing mums for a few but larger blossoms is

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# HOME & GARDEN

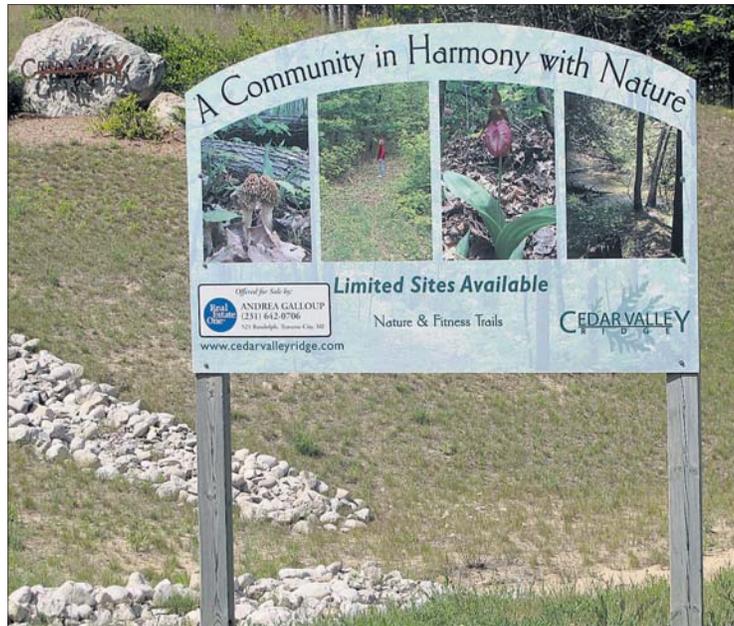
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SUPPLEMENT TO THE RECORD-EAGLE

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**"We originally built this as a model of sustainable green development. At the time, there was nothing else like it."**

Cedar Valley Ridge subdivision co-developer Dan Paulson



Record-Eagle/Mark Urban

The Cedar Valley Ridge development has been certified as a Four Stars Green Subdivision by the National Association of Home Builders, one of only two in the nation to receive that honor.

## FOUR-STAR SUB

*Cedar Valley Ridge receives national recognition*

BY MARK URBAN  
murban@record-eagle.com

When work started on the Cedar Valley Ridge subdivision in 2002, it was designed to be a model for green development.

It's just that it couldn't be verified, until now.

The property in Grand Traverse County's Long Lake Township has been certified as a Four Stars Green Subdivision by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center in Washington, D.C.

"We originally built this as a model of sustainable green development," said co-developer Dan Paulson, who added Long Lake Township developed its conservation cluster ordinance from the plans for Cedar Valley Ridge. "At the time, there was nothing else like it."

That was true because the certification process was new this year.

"The market has finally caught up with us," Paulson said. "In January, the National Association of Home Builders came out with the standard for certifica-

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Special to the Record-Eagle

There are more than six miles of trails that wind through the Cedar Valley Ridge subdivision, which is about eight miles west of Traverse City in Long Lake Township.

## Region continues to lead the way

An event happened a couple of weeks ago that further demonstrates the Grand Traverse area's leadership in the green building movement.

Cedar Valley Ridge, a local subdivision development, was awarded a four-star designation from the National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) National Green Building Program. Only one other subdivision in the nation has received this prestigious award.

There are four levels of environmental performance from one to four stars. To fully appreciate this, you must recognize all that goes into the choices for these awards.

Projects receive awards for green building practices in six categories: Site design and development, site selection, project team mission



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## SUB Cedar Valley Ridge receives national award

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tion of green development.”

The green-certification process was a lengthy one. “It was compiling a lot of paperwork and submitting form after form after form,” co-developer Susan Sherman said.

After about a month — which included certification from NAHB verifier Max Strickland — the Cedar Valley Ridge development received its four-star rating. Paulson said Cedar Valley Ridge is the first development certified in the state at any level. Further, the property was the third in the nation to receive certification and the second to land a four-star award.

“It’s a pretty big deal for us,” Paulson said.

The homeowners also appreciate the award. “It’s great,” said Chandra Wheeler, who had the first house in the subdivision. “We love it. We know how cool it is. Part of us wanted to keep it secret, but ... “We do really enjoy the neighborhood.”

Cedar Valley Ridge consists of 35 lots on 177 acres of wooded hills with almost a quarter-mile of Cedar Run Creek running through it. The development is about eight miles west of Traverse City.

“We could have built 56 lots within the current ordinance,” Paulson said. “We chose to build 35 because

we thought that was the best way to preserve ecological sensitive areas, to preserve the natural beauty, to take out a minimum number of trees and to require the least amount of excavation to the topography.”

Just four of the 35 lots have homes on them. Sixteen of the lots have been sold in the three-phase development.

Any house that is certified as a green-built structure receives a \$5,000 rebate on the lot-purchase price, further stressing the overall belief.

A mere 25 percent of land is available for building, the rest is common area.

“The common area is permanently protected,” Paulson said. “It can’t be developed, it can’t be built on.”

In addition, there are more than six miles of trails throughout the subdivision. These non-motorized paths are used year-round with basic, intermediate and advanced cross-country groomed ski trails.

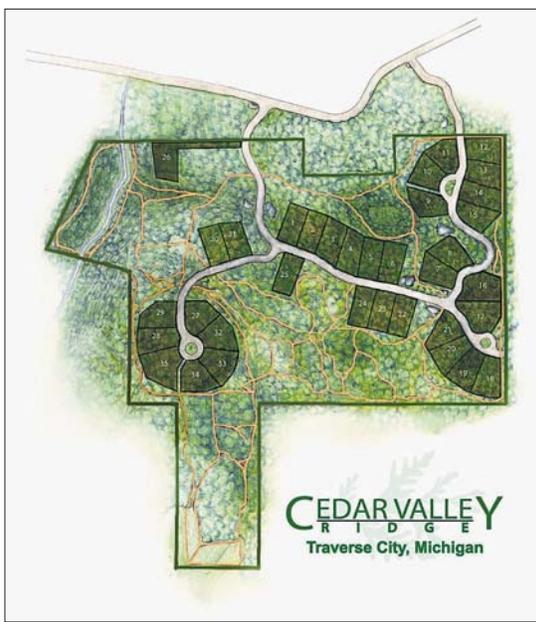
“It’s created a community where instead of people meeting on the streets, they meet on the trails,” Paulson said.

“There’s an engagement with each other, with the property and with nature,” Sherman added.

Wheeler said that was one of the things that first attracted her to the subdivision.

Plus she had son Britton — born at home and now 1-year-old — on the way and wanted a place that emphasized “natural living” with plenty of room for him to explore and build forts.

“We love going and walking them with our dogs and



An artist drawing of the Cedar Valley Ridge development. The dark green areas are lots while the tan lines are trails.

our son,” Wheeler said. “In the wintertime we pull him in a sled.”

Paulson and Sherman said property owners have ample opportunities to get acquainted with each other — whether online, in person or through a newsletter. Some of the property owners come from far away

as Florida and Washington D.C. One lot owner is currently working in Malaysia.

The couple added there is a subdivision winter celebration held in December and a work bee and picnic in the summer.

Lot restrictions are in place and a design review committee is in place, all so

that “the natural character of the property is maintained,” Paulson said.

For more information and a map to Cedar Valley Ridge development visit [www.cedarvalleyridge.com](http://www.cedarvalleyridge.com).

For more information about the NAHB National Green Building Program visit [www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org).

## NAHB Region continues to lead the way by going ‘green’

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statement and goals, site design, site development and construction, and innovative practices. The selection process is rigorous, requiring extensive documentation, project team interviews, and on-site third party verification.

The subdivision develop-

ers, Dan Paulson and Susan Sherman, have extensive backgrounds in energy efficient design and sustainable approaches to construction and development. The banner at the top of the sign near the entrance to the subdivision reads: “A community in harmony with nature.” This statement expresses the essence of their mission statement.

The primary considerations for the developers of the subdivision was to protect the beauty and natural attributes of the property, with the connection to nature kept as a first priority. Each lot has immediate access to six miles of trails

that are maintained year-round for hiking and cross-country skiing.

The property consists of heavily wooded rolling hills with 1,000 feet of Cedar Creek running through it. There are extensive deed restrictions in place for the protection of the natural state of the woodlands and wildlife habitat.

To date, four homes have been built in the development and 12 additional lots have been purchased. The developer offers a \$5,000 rebate for any home that receives a certification from one of the major green building programs within 18 months of purchase.

The subdivision was used as a template by the local township for changing their zoning ordinance in order to provide for and promote future similar developments. This project is not only an example of what good development should be, but demonstrates that it can be both “green” and economically viable in today’s market place.

I encourage you to drive through this development, even if you aren’t in the market for a new home, and see for yourself what a cutting-edge green subdivision looks like.

The development is eight miles west of Traverse City

off East Cedar Valley Road. It consists of 177 acres with 35 lots on 45 of the acres, with the remaining 133 acres as a private nature preserve.

Max Strickland has been involved in the construction industry for 42 years and has been a project manager with Burkholder Construction Co. for the past 30 years. He is currently heading up Northern EverGreen Services, a new company offering green high performance building consulting and energy auditing service. Questions and comments can be directed to [max@negs2.com](mailto:max@negs2.com), or visit his Web site [negs2.com](http://negs2.com) to view previous Green Building 101 articles.

## Favorite vs. native? It’s easy to get confused

Knowing the scientific name is important

BY LILY WOOD

For Plant It Wild

With all the recent emphasis on native plants, homeowners can be easily overwhelmed and confused.

What shrubs are native and which would work well in my yard? When most plants have multiple names, how do I know that I am getting the right plant?

First, know the scientific name of the plant. There are often cultivars or related plants. A related plant may not behave in our yard as the original, so knowing the scientific name is important.

There are some ‘favorites’ out there. They will be described here so that shoppers can approach their plant nursery with confidence.

The number one favorite native shrub is an Amelanchier laevis. Its more familiar name is Allegheny Serviceberry or Smooth Juneberry. It can thrive from dry, sandy open woodlands to moist riverbanks throughout Michigan. It can grow tall and wide, but is also tolerant of pruning; think of it as a small tree, however. Size: 25-30 feet tall

by 15-20 feet wide.

It has white flowers, usually blossoming in May in our region, and deep purple-red fruits later in the season. It is shade tolerant in an understory setting, but prefers partial shade to sun. An Ortho publication on How to Attract Birds provides a very long list of birds that use the Serviceberry for food and habitat. It would be a graceful addition to any yard.

The little Bearberry, or Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, can be found on dunes. It is a groundcover shrub that likes dry, sandy soil. As a ground cover it does not grow very tall (6-12 inches), but can send branches out to eight feet and it is an evergreen.

It has little green round leaves with tiny blossoms in spring that give way to red berries in fall. Use it in a rock garden in full sun or as a ground cover in partial shade. The birds eat the berries and it can be used for erosion control.

While our woods and meadows are full of an invasive honeysuckle, the Diervilla lonicera is a native bush honeysuckle. It prefers an organic, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade. It has the full package: glossy green leaves that turn color in the fall, flowers in July and a fruit that is somewhat showy. Give this one wide berth

and consider it for use on steep banks as it is good for erosion control. Can be cut to the ground in the spring to control bushiness. Size: 2-3 feet tall and wide.

A wet environment favorite is the Buttonbush or Cephalanthus occidentalis. It appreciates swamps and does well along a water’s edge. It leafs-out in late May with a tropical look.

Branching close to the ground, it has smooth gray-green bark and blooms a round white blossom later in the season, typically in July and August. Butterflies visit the blossoms. Size: 3-8 feet tall and 3-6 feet wide.

Another favorite that prefers a damp environment is sometimes called Michigan Holly or Winterberry. It is the Ilex verticillata. While it is a holly, it loses its leaves in winter. Plant it for fall and winter color from its bright red berries. As a holly, remember to plant a male with your females to ensure plenty of fruit. It likes moisture and full sun. Size: 6-10 feet tall and wide.

It has been difficult to select only a few favorites to highlight here. Don’t overlook the Red Osier Dogwood, Cornus stolonifera (also called Red Twig Dogwood) or the High Bush Dogwood, Viburnum trilobum as they are also some of our favorites.

For more information, get ahold of “Landscaping with

Native Plants of Michigan” by Lynn M. Steiner. It is a good resource for plant selection according to your site.

Remember, add native plants to your yard. They belong there. Go Native! Plant It Wild is a nonprofit native plant organization based in Benzie and Manistee counties dedicated to expanding native plant education in our region. For more information, contact Carolyn Thayer-President, 352-6962, [carolyn@coslink.com](mailto:carolyn@coslink.com) or JoAnn Pope-Secretary, [jipope@acegroup.cc](mailto:jipope@acegroup.cc).

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## MUM Pinch now to get ready for fall

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whole different ball game, and can be an exciting science. First, choose an appropriate variety; some mums will not make extra-large blossoms no matter what you do. Then right away remove all but one to three shoots on each plant, as well as any branches on those shoots. Stake each shoot separately to keep it rigidly upright.

The change-over to the flowering phase is gradual. If you don’t pinch the tip of a stem at all as days shorten, the end of that stem becomes a flower bud. The flower stem itself stays relatively short, and has strappy leaves rather than typical mum foliage. Side shoots grow out below this top bud, and somewhat later these shoots are also capped by flowers.

For a larger blossom, pinch off the side shoots so that all the plant’s energy goes into flowers opening only on the main stems.

Alternatively, pinch out the tip of a main stem before it makes a flower bud. Three or so of the side shoots just below the tip will continue upward growth. Eventually, the plant will enter the flowering phase and the end of each shoot will be capped by a cluster of flower buds.

These flower buds sit atop stems that are relatively long and do have the characteristic mum foliage — all of which is important for “show” mums.

Depending on how many and how large you want your blossoms, retain one or all of these shoots. For an extra large blossom, pinch out all but the top flower bud on each shoot that you left. Otherwise, let the ends of each retained shoot open into a spray.

The timing of the last pinch, as well as the number of stems and flowers to allow each plant, has been carefully calculated for the best show from a number of varieties.

Why all this precision? Because commercial and competition mum growers must eke the best from each of the plants. Just fooling around with mums can be fun for the rest of us gardeners.