FLOWERS · A SUNNY GARDEN BORDER WITH ROOM FOR A TALL CLUMP

# Let's grow shasta daisy.

*Leucanthemum × superbum 'Becky'*

This plan is for **Becky Shasta daisy in a garden bed**

**Is this your plant?** The main recipe is for Leucanthemum × superbum 'Becky' in a bed. For a patio pot, use the separate Snowcap option below and match that cultivar label. Neither is wild oxeye daisy.

White summer daisies from one easy garden plant.

**48 in. between plants** **1 nursery plant**

**Before you start**

Start in mild spring weather in a sunny, freely draining garden bed. 'Becky' is listed for USDA zones 4–9; avoid soggy winter soil.

**Growing in a pot?**

Go to the compact Snowcap container plan ↓. The main steps below are for Becky in a garden bed.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 29, 2026 View sources ↗

LIGHT

**Likes full sun**

Choose a spot with at least 6 hours of direct sun.

WATER

**Moist to start, drier later**

Keep a new root ball from drying out. Once established, water when the top 2 inches of soil are dry.

FEEDING

**No routine feed needed**

Start in average garden soil; buy no fertilizer for this plan.

BEFORE YOU START

## Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 labeled 'Becky' Shasta daisy nursery plant
- ✓ A sunny 4 × 4 ft garden patch with good drainage
- ✓ A trowel, watering can or hose, and clean garden snips

**THE SOIL**

Average garden soil that drains freely

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

## One garden plant. Here's the plan.

A sunny garden border with room for a tall clump. Start with **nursery plant**.

**THE SPACE**

### 48 in. between plants

Reserve a 4 × 4 ft patch for one plant. If repeating, measure 4 ft from center to center. This is a roomy layout, not a minimum.

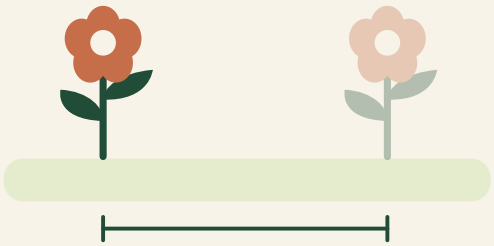
**HOW MANY**

### 1 nursery plant

Choose a plant labeled 'Becky'. It is a tall Shasta daisy, not a compact pot variety or wild oxeye daisy.

THE SPACE

## 48 in. between plants




START WITH

## 1 nursery plant



Illustration · not to scale

**48 in. between plants · 1 nursery plant** Reserve a 4 × 4 ft patch for one plant. If repeating, measure 4 ft from center to center. This is a roomy layout, not a minimum. Choose a plant labeled 'Becky'. It is a tall Shasta daisy, not a compact pot variety or wild oxeye daisy. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

### Pick the spot before buying

Mark a 4 × 4 ft patch in a sunny border. Avoid low ground where water stands after rain. 'Becky' can reach about 3–4 ft tall, so place it behind shorter flowers.

02

### Keep the nursery soil level

Water the nursery pot before planting. Dig a hole wide enough for the root ball and set its surface level with the surrounding ground. Backfill gently; do not bury the leafy base.

03

### Soak the root ball, then check

Water slowly after planting so the original root ball and surrounding soil are moist. Check the root ball regularly through the first growing season, especially during dry or windy weather. Water when it starts drying; skip still-wet soil.

04

### Snip off finished flowers

Remove faded flower heads as you notice them. This can encourage another flush. Once a stem has finished flowering, cut it back to the low leaves and leave those green leaves in place.

## Other ways to start

### Divide an established 'Becky'

In spring as new growth begins, lift an overcrowded clump and split it into smaller rooted sections. Keep healthy growing points on each piece, discard a dead center, and replant promptly at the same depth. Division keeps the named plant's characteristics.

### Choose seed as a different project

Seed-grown Shasta daisies are available, but a generic seed packet is not a reliable way to reproduce 'Becky'. For this exact plan, buy a labeled nursery plant or divide an established 'Becky'. Follow a seed strain's own packet for sowing and final spacing.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

## Becky garden-bed care at a glance.

**WATER WHEN**

Keep a new root ball from drying out. Once established, water when the top 2 inches of soil are dry. Wet the root zone slowly; wait if rain has kept it moist.

**FERTILIZER**

No added fertilizer for this starting plan

**AMOUNT**

None

**WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS**

No fertilizer dose to calculate.

**HOW OFTEN TO FEED**

No routine feeding.

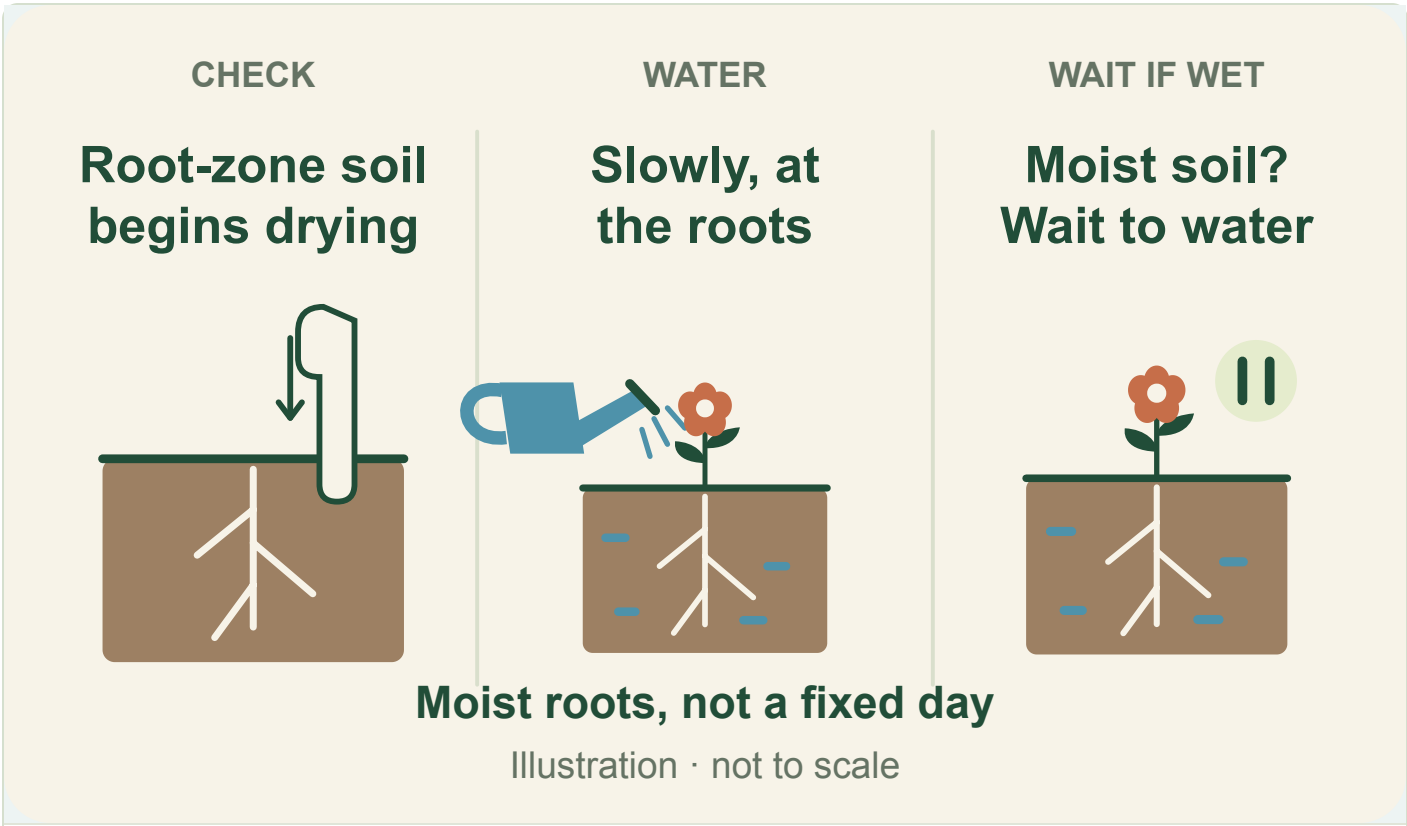
**WHEN TO START OR PAUSE**

Start in average garden soil. For weak growth, check sun, drainage, and crowding; use a soil test before choosing fertilizer.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

## When to water the garden bed.

**During the first growing season, check the original nursery root ball as well as the soil around it; water before the new roots dry out.** Once established, use the top 2 inches of dry soil as the cue. Water slowly at ground level until moisture reaches through the root zone, then wait for drying before repeating. Rain counts. There is no fixed gallon amount or weekly schedule for every garden soil.




**Check before watering.** Keep a new root ball from drying out. Once established, water when the top 2 inches of soil are dry. Wet the root zone slowly; wait if rain has kept it moist. Original illustration; not to scale.

> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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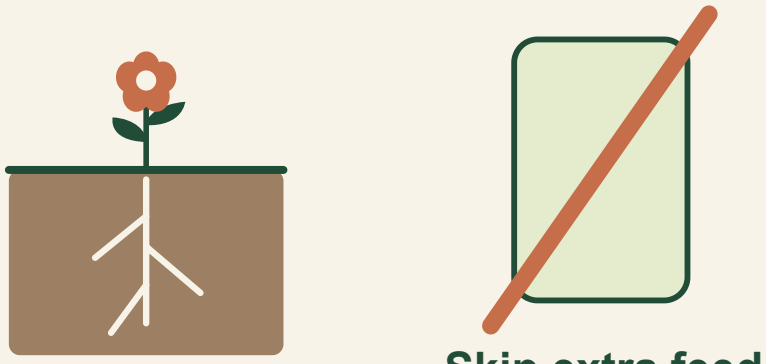
02 / PLANT FOOD

## Feeding Becky in the garden bed.

**No fertilizer purchase is needed for this starting plan in average garden soil.** Ball Seed lists 'Becky' for no fertilizer or feeding only when needed. More plant food is not the first fix for poor flowering.

THIS STARTING PLAN

# No added fertilizer



**Skip extra feed**

## Follow the conditions in this plan

Illustration · not to scale

**None** No fertilizer dose to calculate. No routine feeding. Start in average garden soil. For weak growth, check sun, drainage, and crowding; use a soil test before choosing fertilizer. Original illustration; not to scale.

THE SIMPLE FEEDING PLAN

### Start without extra fertilizer.

If growth stays weak, first check sun, drainage, and whether the clump is crowded. In poor soil, use a soil test to choose an amendment and its rate. Do not copy a container's liquid-feed schedule onto this garden bed; no routine fertilizer dose is prescribed here.

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03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

## Summer flowers and mature clump size

Expect white flowers with yellow centers in summer, sometimes continuing into early fall. 'Becky' is a clump-forming perennial, commonly around 3–4 ft tall in flower. Published spreads vary; the Perennial Plant Association lists about 40 inches. The 4-ft space in this recipe gives that mature clump room. A new plant may take a growing season to fill out.

### Spring planting and winter drainage

Mild spring weather is the simplest time to start, once the ground is workable and drains well. The Perennial Plant Association and Monrovia list 'Becky' for USDA zones 4–9. Early-fall planting can work where roots have time to establish before winter; avoid planting just before the ground freezes.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

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PHOTO NOTES

## Daisies in a garden border.

White daisies in two garden settings. The pictured cultivars are unconfirmed; this guide distinguishes a Becky garden-bed plan from a separate Snowcap container option.



Flower stems and foliage beside a garden path.

Photo supplied by jennyzhuang.



White daisies in a broad garden border.

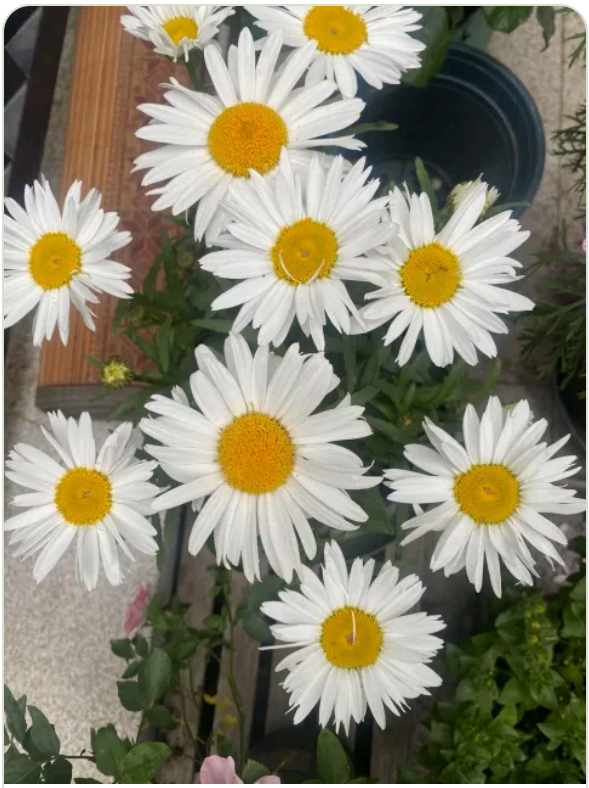
Photo supplied by jennyzhuang.

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ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## A closer look at the flowers.

These Shasta daisies were photographed by jennyzhuang. The pictured cultivar is unspecified; use a plant labeled 'Becky' for the garden-bed plan or 'Snowcap' for the separate container option. The photos do not establish either named cultivar or the outcome of either plan.



White petals surround yellow centers, with unopened buds among the green leaves.

Photo: jennyzhuang. All rights reserved.

## Something looking off?

**Does Shasta daisy come back every year?**

'Becky' is a perennial, so a healthy plant can return after winter. It is not permanent: crowded clumps can lose vigor and benefit from division. Wet winter soil can kill the crown even where temperatures are within its hardiness range.

### Why is my Shasta daisy not flowering?

Check that it receives enough sun and that the clump is not overcrowded. A newly planted or recently divided plant may be settling in. Excess fertilizer can produce soft leafy growth; do not add a bloom booster automatically.

### Can I grow Shasta daisies in a patio pot?

Yes: choose a compact plant labeled 'Snowcap' and use the separate pot plan below. It starts with one plant in a draining 6-US-gallon pot about 12 inches deep. Monrovia lists Snowcap at 10–14 inches tall and about 12 inches wide. The main garden recipe is still for tall 'Becky'; its spacing and no-routine-feed advice are not the Snowcap pot recipe.

### How often should I water a potted Shasta daisy?

Check the mix daily in warm weather. Keep a newly planted nursery root ball from drying through. Once it is established, water when the top 1–2 inches of mix begin to dry, wetting the root zone until excess drains. Empty the saucer and wait while the mix is moist. Checking daily does not mean watering daily.

### Does the Snowcap pot need fertilizer straight away?

Not with fresh, pre-fertilized mix. Follow the starter-feed directions on your bag first. When supplemental food is needed during active growth, this pot option uses US Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose 24-8-16 at 1 level tablespoon per US gallon every 14 days. Use only enough solution to water the pot. Do not combine it with another feeding program or feed a dormant or stressed plant.

### Can I leave the Snowcap pot outdoors all winter?

Its garden hardiness rating does not guarantee that roots survive in an exposed pot. In freezing regions, sink the pot into garden soil before the ground freezes, or move it once dormant to a sheltered, unheated space that stays about 30–40°F. A garage is suitable only if its temperature stays in that range. Check moisture occasionally; keep the roots from drying completely without leaving them soggy.

### Is this the same as oxeye daisy?

No. Look for Leucanthemum × superbum 'Becky' on the tag. Oxeye daisy is Leucanthemum vulgare. Washington's weed board specifically lists 'Becky' as an alternative to invasive oxeye daisy; that local recommendation is not a claim that every daisy is suitable everywhere.

# After flowering, winter care, and division

### Keep the green base after flowering

After flowering, shorten finished stems to the low leafy base. Keep healthy green basal leaves. Clear old dead foliage before spring growth, and keep mulch away from the crown. Freely draining soil is the main winter requirement; a soggy crown needs a better site, not extra fertilizer.

### Divide an older clump in spring

Check an older clump every 2–3 years. A dead middle, crowded growth, or fewer flowers can signal time to divide; leave a vigorous clump alone. In early spring, dig it up, keep healthy outer sections with roots and shoots, and discard the dead center. Replant with the crowns at soil level and water them in.

A SEPARATE PATIO-POT OPTION

## One compact Snowcap Shasta daisy in a pot

Choose a nursery plant labeled **Leucanthemum × superbum 'Snowcap'**. Monrovia lists it at **10–14 inches tall and about 12 inches wide**, suited to pots. The main recipe above remains for tall Becky in the ground.

### 1 plant · 1 pot

**6 US gallons; about 12 inches deep; drainage holes.** Our roomy starting choice follows general perennial-container guidance, not a Snowcap minimum-size trial.

### 1 bag of potting mix

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US), **1 cu. ft.** Fill around the root ball and save the spare. Use potting mix, not garden soil.

### 1. Find a sunny spot

Aim for at least **6 hours of direct sun**. Choose the nursery plant by its Snowcap label.

### 2. Plant at the nursery level

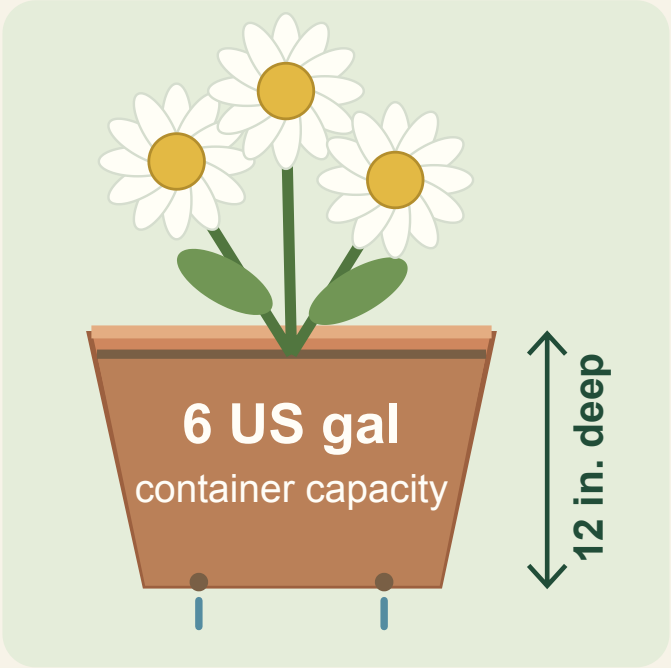
Moisten the mix. Keep the crown at the mix surface and leave **1 inch below the pot rim**. Water through and empty the saucer.

### 3. Check moisture, then water

Check daily in warm weather. Keep the new root ball from drying through. Once established, water when the **top 1–2 inches begin to dry**, until excess drains. If moist, wait.

## A patio pot for compact Snowcap

One nursery plant. A different plan from Becky.




**Full sun**
6+ hours direct sun.

**Potting mix**
Use a bag for pots.
Leave 1 in. headspace.

**Drainage holes**
Let extra water out.
Empty the saucer.

**Check daily in warm weather; water only when needed.**

Established pot: top 1–2 in. beginning to dry? Water.

Roomy starting choice, not a tested minimum pot size.

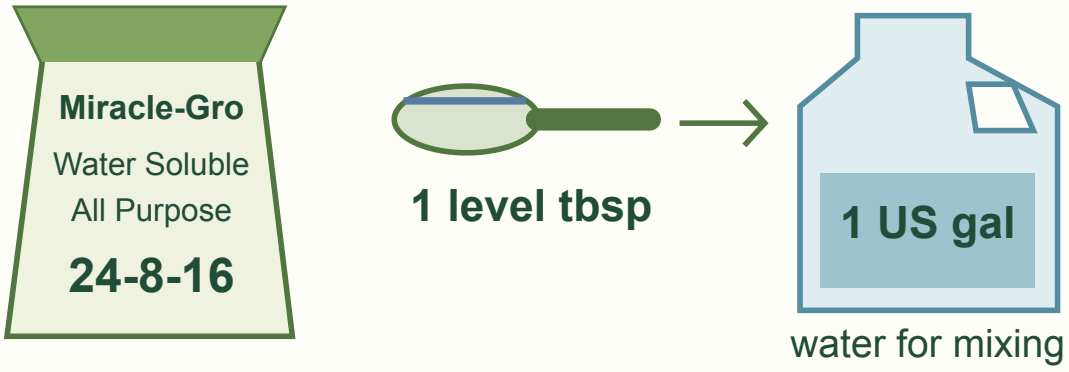
**Check daily does not mean water daily.** Let extra water drain and empty the saucer. Original teaching schematic, not a growing-trial photograph.

### 4. Use the starter feed first

**No extra fertilizer at planting.** The suggested mix feeds for “up to 2 months”; follow your bag’s actual starting instructions rather than assuming a fixed waiting period.

Later, when supplemental food is needed during active growth, use **Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose, US 24-8-16**: **1 level tablespoon per 1 US gallon, every 14 days**. This uses the manufacturer’s outdoor dilution and the slower end of its 7–14-day interval.

## For the Snowcap pot, after starter feed




**Every 14 days only while growing and ready for feed.**

Use only enough to water the pot. Do not empty the batch.

**A dilution ratio, not one pot's drink.** Use only enough solution to wet the root zone and let excess drain. Product label guide, not a packaging photo.

**Pause** for wet soil, wilting, heat stress, or dormancy. Rewet a dried-out root ball with plain water first. Do not combine feeding programs. The added 24-8-16 fertilizer is not organic.

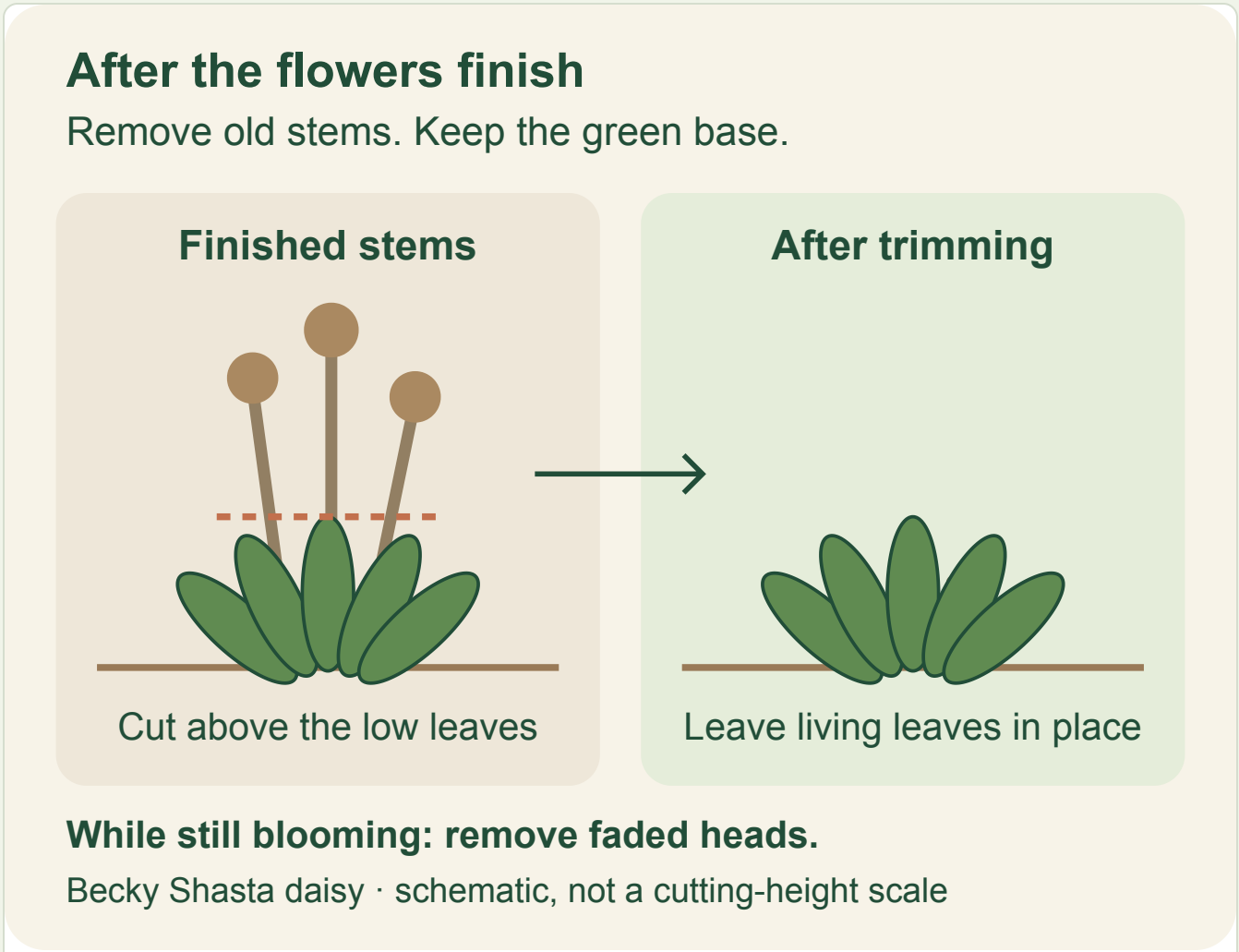
### 5. Snip spent flowers; protect roots in winter

Keep healthy leaves and buds when removing faded flowers. In freezing regions, **sink the pot into garden soil before the ground freezes**, or move it once dormant to an unheated space that stays **30–40°F**. Measure the temperature. Check moisture in mild spells; water unfrozen mix only as needed. No fertilizer while dormant. A garden hardiness rating does not guarantee survival in an exposed pot.

Recipe basis: Monrovia Snowcap; Maryland container sizes; Iowa container care; Minnesota feeding; New Hampshire winter protection; manufacturer directions linked above. This combined recipe is an editorial choice, not a cultivar trial. Checked September 29, 2026.

Contributed photographs have no confirmed cultivar label. They are not identified as Snowcap or evidence of this pot recipe.

### What to cut after flowering




Remove faded heads during bloom. Once a stem has finished, shorten it to the low leafy base. **Keep healthy green basal leaves.** The dashed line shows the principle, not a fixed cutting height.

Care basis: the Perennial Plant Association's Becky profile. Original teaching schematic by Plant Care Steps; not a plant-identification image.

## Help with your next step.

**Check your pot drains before planting**

Drainage holes and a loose potting mix help prevent a wet crown; a decorative cover pot must not hold standing water.

## Compare another flower project

Choose by garden space, mature size and the named plant type before buying.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

# Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.


- Perennial Plant Association: Becky size, US zones, flowers, and cutting back ↗
  https://perennialplantoftheyear.com/2025/02/05/leucanthemum/
- NC State: Shasta daisy identity, sun, drainage, and division ↗
  https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/leucanthemum-x-superbum/
- Monrovia: Becky watering trigger and first-season care ↗
  https://www.monrovia.com/becky-shasta-daisy.html
- Ball Seed: Becky fertilizer needs ↗
  https://info.ballseed.com/PlantInfo?phid=123300001000492
- Illinois Extension: planting depth, spring planting, and overfeeding ↗
  https://extension.illinois.edu/flowers/planting-and-care
- Maryland Extension: soil-test-led feeding and crown-safe mulch ↗
  https://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/care-annuals-and-perennials
- Oregon State: signs a clump needs dividing and division method ↗
  https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/how-when-divide-perennials-healthier-more-productive-plants
- Iowa State: spring division for Shasta daisies ↗
  https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/When-to-Divide-Perennials-PDF
- Illinois Extension: why vegetative propagation retains the parent plant ↗
  https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/propagation
- Washington weed board: Becky versus oxeye daisy ↗
  https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/herbaceous-non-invasive-alternatives-for-eastern-wa
- Monrovia: Snowcap size, container use, sun, and watering ↗
  https://www.monrovia.com/snowcap-shasta-daisy.html
- Maryland Extension: container volume, depth, and drainage for flowering perennials ↗
  https://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/types-containers-growing-vegetables
- Iowa State: pot moisture checks, drainage, and starter fertilizer ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/care-plants-growing-containers
- Minnesota Extension: fertilizer choices for container plants ↗
  https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/fertilizing-and-watering-container-plants
- New Hampshire Extension: winter protection for potted perennials ↗
  https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2018/11/how-can-i-overwinter-perennials-still-containers
- ScottsMiracle-Gro: US Organic Potting Mix and starter feeding ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/potting-mix/miracle-gro-organic-potting-mix/78951430.html
- ScottsMiracle-Gro: US All Purpose 24-8-16 outdoor dilution and interval ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/plant-food-and-care/miracle-gro-water-soluble-all-purpose-plant-food/4001233.html


Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.