

# Strawflowers Take the Heat!

by Karen Woodring, *Extension Master Gardener Volunteer*

4/6/2026

Last year, I finally realized that flowers would struggle on my blazing-hot Southwest-facing deck. By August, all of my Sun Annual planters would be shoved into a corner sheltered by the patio umbrella and watered daily to survive (but never to thrive). That is, until I discovered Strawflowers!

*Xerochrysum bracteatum*, commonly known as Strawflower, Everlasting Daisy, or Paper Daisy, laughs at the broiling heat and sun. It is native to Australia and lovely to look at as a potted plant in the Summer and as a dried bouquet in the Winter.

Strawflowers are often grown for the dried flower market.

This year, I started some from seed indoors (with a heat mat and grow lights) at the end of February, and they germinated quickly. I am not going to be in a rush to set them outdoors, though.



Here are some tips and tricks for enjoying the blooms now and later:

- Keep deadheading to promote blooms.
- The tall varieties (King size) may need staking.
- Non-toxic to dogs and cats
- The dwarf varieties do well in planters or in the front of rock gardens.
- Do NOT overwater.
- Best harvested in the early morning before the blooms are fully open.

I hope you try some of these ‘blooming blokes’ if you have a spot for them in your garden.

## References:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/flowers/strawflower>  
<https://ministryofthefence.me/2023/10/01/the-awesomeness-of-strawflowers-in-the-garden-and-beyond/>  
<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/aspca-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

Photo credit: *Helichrysum bracteatum*  
by Col Ford and Natasha de Vere  
<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>