

## *Gerbera jamesonii*

**Common Name:** Gerbera, Barberton daisy

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Habit:** Herb

**Location:** Botanical Garden

**Distribution:** *Gerbera jamesonii* is endemic to Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Eswatini (South Africa). The plant is introduced into several countries of Latin America, Equatorial Africa and Southeast Asia.

**Description:** *Gerbera jamesonii* is a tufted perennial herb with the naked flowering escapes up to 75 cm high. Petiolate, deeply undulating or lobed leaves are 15–42 (up to 68) cm long and 4–14 cm wide, gathered in rosette. The plant produces spectacular flowers (capitula) of 4–5 cm in diameter with normally orange-red (rarely yellow, orange, white, pink) ray florets. It flowers from September to March. The flowers are pollinated by bees and other insects. The seeds are light and easily dispersed by wind. The seeds have a pappus of bristles.

**Uses:** It is the most important ornamental crops in the world together with rose, chrysanthemum, carnation, lily and tulip. It is widely used as a decorative plant or as cut flowers. Chrysanthemum flowers are rich in phenolic compounds and exhibit strong properties including antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, anti-allergic, anti-obesity, immune regulation, hepatoprotective, and nephroprotective activities.

