

MARIGOLD

Tagetes patula



Characteristics

- Type: Annual
- Zone: 2 to 11
- Height: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
- Spread: 0.50 to 0.75 feet
- Bloom Time: June to frost
- Bloom Description: Yellow, orange, red and bicolor
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Suggested Use: Annual
- Flower: Showy, Fragrant
- Leaf: Fragrant
- Attracts: Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bees
- Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil

Culture

Marigolds are a favorite, no-fuss annual that can bring the color of sunshine to your garden, as well as butterflies, bees, ladybugs, and other beneficial insects. Give them full sun and some well-draining soil and watch them bloom from late spring until fall. Easily grown in average, evenly moist, well-drained soils in full sun. Appreciates some light afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Sow seed directly in the garden at last frost date. For earlier bloom, start seed indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost date or purchase plants in cell/six packs from local nurseries. Set plants out after last frost date. Pinch young plants to promote bushy growth. Promptly deadhead spent flowers. Flowering may decrease considerably in the heat of the summer, but will resume as cooler weather arrives.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Considered by many gardeners as among the easiest and most versatile flowers to grow, Marigolds tolerate most soils and bloom brightly all summer long. Marigolds are best known for their aromatic blooms, ablaze in bright yellows and oranges, rusts and apricots. Marigolds beg to be deadheaded (simply snap off dying flower heads) as they produce a succession of prolific blooms. Perfect low-growing container plant or vegetable bed border-guard, marigolds have been and continue to be a garden mainstay. Marigolds are famously excellent as a companion plant. One way in which marigolds are said help their neighbors is by killing nematodes that can cause problems for crops. Genus named for an Etruscan deity, Tages.

Problems

Susceptible to powdery mildew, Botrytis, leaf spot and rots. Watch for spider mites and thrips.

Garden Uses

Beds, edgings, containers, planters, hanging baskets or in ornamental beds or borders.