

Guǎhan Produce Guide:
Marigold



Plant Traits	Details
Plant Type	Herbaceous flower; grows annually.
Size	Up to 6 feet
Spacing	Plant 8-12 inches apart
Bloom Time	About 1.5 months or 8 weeks
Flower Color	Orange and yellow
Root Depth	¼ inch deep

Pests

Aphids, earwigs, caterpillars, leafminers, snails, slugs, spider mites, and thrips.

Diseases

Blights, rots, and mildew; commonly caused by overhead watering.

Health Benefits

- Alleviates cramps & aids digestion
- Relieves nausea & stomach ulcers
- Eases headaches
- Helps facilitate sleep
- Provides anti-inflammatory properties

Site Characteristics

Sun Exposure

Full sunlight; too much shade will interrupt the growth process

Soil Condition

Moderately fertile and well-drained soil; marigolds are able to tolerate poor soil and droughts.

Support

When the plant grows tall, it may require a stake to keep it growing upright.

Water

Water marigolds when the soil is dry; best to water in high heat and at the base.

Fertilizer

Use slow-acting granular fertilizer or diluted liquid fertilizer once a month; 5 - nitrogen, 10 - phosphorous, and 5 - potassium. Too much nitrogen produces more leaves and less flowers.

From Seed to Harvest

Sowing Seeds

Sow seeds ½ inch deep into the soil; can be planted into a seed tray or directly into the ground

Transplanting Seedlings

Marigolds can be transplanted 3 weeks after sprouting or when they develop 1-2 sets of true leaves. Plant into an area with full sun and space seedlings 8-12 inches apart.

Maintenance

Water deeply once a week or more often if the top soil is dry. But if the soil is too wet, this may encourage root rot and other moisture-related diseases. Remove dead flower heads to encourage new blooms.

Harvesting

Harvest seeds when the seed pods are dry and brown. However, waiting too long to harvest the seed pods may increase the chance of it rotting or molding. Remove the marigold flower head from its stem and remove dead petals to expose the seeds.

Interesting Facts

- Marigolds serve as a great companion plant for other plants.
- Marigolds attract pollinators as well as ladybugs that feed off other insects.

Sources

1. <https://www.almanac.com/plant/marigolds>
2. <https://www.britannica.com/plant/marigold>
3. <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/marigold/growing-marigolds-in-containers.htm#:~:text=Water%20deeply%2C%20then%20let%20the,regularly%20to%20trigger%20new%20blooms.>
4. <https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/how-to-grow-marigolds/>