

Grower's Facts

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M arigold - French

Tagetes patula Fireball

PLANTATION: Sow the seeds 4-5 weeks before the last frost. Keep the temperature around 22 °C. Germination time is between 5 and 8 days. Cover the seed with coarse vermiculite. Keep soil moisture high until radicle emergence, then reduce moisture levels after the radicle penetrates the medium. Do not allow seedlings to wilt.

SOIL: Indoor: A well-drained, porous sowing media is best to prevent overwatering.

Outdoor: Well-drained soil.

PLANTING:

Step 1: plow the soil about 30 cm (12 inches). Add an equal part of potting soil and mix well. Dig a hole approximately the same length as the container and about 1 ½ to 3 times the width.

Step 2: slightly squeeze the container, tap out the plant, and delicately free the roots. If the roots are too dense, liberate the fibers by inserting a knife or a transplanter. Separate the roots carefully, and then place in the hole.

* **Good to know:** Use an organic bone meal or a «soil activator» when transplanting to stimulate root development. Follow the instructions for use on the package.

Fill up the hole with garden soil. Slightly press the soil around the base of the plant to favor the contact between the roots and the soil. Water regularly every 2 or 3 days until the soil is well compacted.

Note: Very tolerant, the marigold adapts to almost all situations in moderately rich soil and in a climate neither too hot nor too dry. It needs sunny exposure, at least half the day. It can endure a few brief droughts but gives the best of itself regularly watered. The marigold is rarely attacked by insects; it only fears excess heat and soggy soil.