

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Marigolds

Marigolds are a popular, long-lasting and brilliantly colored flowers. Marigolds are commonly grown as annuals, but some varieties are perennials. The flowers bloom in yellow, gold and orange and are hardy plants that grow well in flower beds, containers or as cut arrangements. In addition to their fiery appearance, Marigolds also naturally repel mosquitos.

### To plant:

Begin Marigolds inside eight weeks before the last frost. Fill a seed-starting tray with soilless potting mix and sprinkle the seeds over the surface. Cover the seeds with a thin layer of vermiculite, then cover the tray with plastic and place in a warm area, such as the top of a refrigerator. Marigolds do not require light to germinate. Marigolds seeds will sprout in as little as four days, and once seedlings appear, remove the plastic and move to a sunny location.

### To grow:

Once seedlings have two true sets of leaves, move to their own pot and continue growing indoors until the last frost has passed. Transplant them outdoors in a sunny location. Since Marigolds are hardy, they grow well in moist or dry conditions. If planted in the ground, only water the Marigolds if dry weather persists for more than two weeks. Water Marigolds daily if they are growing in a container. Encourage more growth by deadheading the spent blooms.

### To harvest:

To harvest Marigolds as cut flowers, harvest



[Petite Mix Marigold seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

in the early morning when the blooms are just beginning to open. Set the freshly cut stems in a vase with warm water. After two hours, strip the lower leaves that are submerged in water. Marigolds will live a week in the vase if they are properly maintained. Individual Marigold flowers can be harvested as a garnish for culinary dishes. To do so, cut the stem 1 inch from the ground on a sunny day. Wash the entire stem and flower and only remove the stem immediately prior to serving so the flower has the best flavor.

Marigold seeds also can be harvested while deadheading spent blooms. Once deadheaded, the dead blooms can be kept in a dry, cool place and seeds can be harvested for the following year.

### What Marigolds crave:

In the spring after setting Marigolds out in the garden, feed them with a slow-release 11-40-6 granular fertilizer. If growing Marigold perennials, feed them each spring



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before new growth appears. Add a water-soluble fertilizer to the Marigolds once a month. For container-grown Marigolds, fertilize them every four to six weeks with a balanced liquid fertilizer. If growing perennial Marigolds, do not fertilize in the winter months. Be careful to not overfeed the Marigolds, as too much fertilizer will increase leaf production and decrease bloom production.

## Where to buy Marigold seeds:

Urban Farmer sells a wide variety of Marigold in dwarf mixes and in double blooms that can reach up to 12 inches tall.

Check out our Marigold seed selection on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



[Crackerjack Marigold seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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