

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Calendula

In addition to bringing a bright burst of color to the garden, Calendula flowers are grown to be used as a medical salve and the flowers are edible. The blooms are frost tolerant, which creates long-lasting color in the garden. Calendula flowers is also known as "Pot Marigolds."

To plant:

Sow Calendula seeds directly into the garden early in the season and cover with ¼ inch of soil. Germination will occur in less than 14 days. Pick a spot where you want the flowers to be for years. Although Calendulas are annuals, they drop seeds and reseed themselves. Since it is hardy annual, it will not be harmed by light frosts in the early spring.

Direct sowing is easiest for Calendulas, but they can also be started indoors in mid-February and transplanted to the garden in April. To begin the seeds indoors, keep them in a dark area until sprouted. Seeds also can be direct sown into the garden in the early fall.

To grow:

Calendulas prefer full sun but will grow in partial shade. They like rich, well-drained soil with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0, but the flowers will tolerate poor soil as well. Once the flowers are established, they don't require much maintenance. Water them during dry periods. Add mulch to retain moisture and deter weeds. Deadhead the plants by picking dead blooms to remove them. This encourages the plants to grow more blooms and also improves its appearance.



[Pacific Beauty Mix Calendula seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

Calendula is a good companion plant when planted near asparagus and tomatoes.

Unfortunately, insects seem to like Calendula, and the plant also is susceptible to plant diseases like mildews due to hot, humid weather. A fungicide can be used to aid in mildew problems. Avoid overhead watering to help prevent mildew problems.

To harvest:

Calendula flowers bloom from mid-summer up until the first frosts in the fall. They make beautiful arrangements, as they have multi-colored blooms on long stems. However, prior to trimming the flowers and bringing them indoors to arrange in a vase, check for aphids. Sometimes the flowers are not an indoor favorite because of their strong smell.

What Calendula craves:

Although Calendula will grow in poor soil, a richer soil will increase its bloom and the



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quality of the plant. Add compost to the soil to improve it and add a general-purpose fertilizer once a month.

Where to buy Calendula seeds:

Urban Farmer sells different kinds of Calendula seeds that come in bright festive colors.

Check out our Calendula seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com!



Balls Orange Calendula seeds available at ufseeds.com



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