

Tagetes patula ***Disco Mix***

French Marigold

Culture guide

Uses:

Bedding, border, mixed container

Exposure:

Sun

Garden height:

9" / 23 cm

Crop time:

7-9 weeks

Sow time:

January-February for bedding plant production;
February-March for flowering in pots from June
onwards

Sowing method:

1 seed per plug

Germination:

Stage I : 2-3 days at 72-75 °F (22-24 °C). Sow in
media with very low soluble salt levels and pH
6.0-6.5. Cover seed lightly with vermiculite after
sowing to maintain moisture levels. Keep soil
slightly moist but not wet. Light is not required for
germination. At the end of stage I the radicle will
have emerged and the cotyledons begin to unfurl.

Growing On:

4-5 weeks after sowing transplant 1 plant into 10
cm (4") pots or packs. Transplant African
Marigold plugs before they become root bound.
Delays in transplanting may induce premature
flowering.

Media:

Use a well-drained, disease free, soilless medium
with a pH of 6.2-6.5; do not allow to fall below 6.0
or Iron or Manganese toxicity may result.

Temperature:

Nights 15-17 °C (59-63 °F), days 18-20 °C (64-68
°F). Avoid lower temperatures, as temperatures
between 18-20 °C (64-68 °F) promote the flower
initiation. Before selling plants should be
hardened slowly at 10-13 °C (50-55 °F). *T. patula*
does not tolerate frost.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize
the crop weekly with 150-200 ppm nitrogen, using
a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high
ammonium and high nitrogen levels. High
nitrogen levels cause leaves being too large and
high ammonium levels will damage the roots.
Check regularly pH value in substrate, because
pH below 6.0 can result in necrotic spots on the
leaves or in yellow leaves.