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Tagetes erecta F?

Discovery

- Best dwarf marigold on the market
- Compact, tidy habit
- Uniformity in height, bloom time and outdoor performance
- Extra large flowers – popular for packs and pots
- Rain and heat tolerant

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Crop Time

Spring: 8 - 10 weeks

Height

9 ? / 23 cm

Exposure

Sun

Seed Form

Raw Seed, Coated Seed, Detailed Seed

Best Uses

Bedding, Landscape

Culture guide

Usage

Bedding, border, mixed container, summer pots

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

18-23 °C (64-73 °F) days, 13-18 °C (55-64 °F) nights. Temperatures that are too low are a cause for a poor quality of the first flowers, too high temperatures encourage flower heads to be reduced in size. Plants for early selling should be hardened slowly at 10-13 °C (50-55 °F). *T. erecta* 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. Check regularly pH value in substrate, because pH below 6.0 can cause necrotic spots on the leaves or yellow leaves.

Stage I Starts with the radicle breaking through the testa. The roots are touching the medium. Ends with fully developed cotyledons.

Stage II Starts from fully developed cotyledons. Ends with the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair.

Stage III Starts from the fully developed true leaf or true leaf pair and ends with 80% of the young plants being marketable.

Stage IV All young plants are ready for sale and in the process of being hardened off. This stage lasts about 7 days.

The cultural recommendations are based on results from trials conducted under Central European conditions. Different conditions in other parts of the world may lead to deviations in

results achieved.

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