

MARIGOLDS

Info from: <http://www.theflowerexpert.com>

Facts About Marigolds

- Marigold (Calendula) is an extremely effective herb for the treatment of skin problems and can be used wherever there is inflammation of the skin, whether due to infection or physical damage
- As an ointment, Marigold (Calendula) is an excellent cosmetic remedy for repairing minor damage to the skin such as subdermal broken capillaries or sunburn. The sap from the stem is said to remove warts, corns and calluses.
- In the 12th century Macer wrote that merely looking at the Marigold plant would improve the eyesight and lighten the mood.
- In South Asia bright yellow and orange Marigold flowers are used in the thousands in garlands and to decorate religious statues and buildings. They are also used as offerings and decoration at funerals, weddings and other ceremonies.
- Pigments in Marigolds are sometimes extracted and used as a food coloring for humans and livestock.

Propagating and Growing Marigolds

Marigolds can be propagated by seeds. The plants need about 45 days to flower after seeding. Marigold seeds should be sown 2cm apart. Cover seeds with 1/4 inch of potting soil. Water sufficiently. Plants will appear within a few days. When true leaves have formed, transplant into individual containers or outdoors.

Marigolds are robust, non-fussy plants that bring a lot of sunshine in your garden. Marigolds can be grown easily.

- Plant your seeds in half-sunny or sunny locations.
- The soil must be well-drained, moist and fertile.
- Add potash fertilizers to prolong the flowering period.
- Pinch off the first flowers before they open. This will lead to a larger number of flowers.

Marigold Fact

Marigolds have a pungent odor which keeps insects at bay, but they can be bothered by slugs.

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper:

- 1) What are 3 uses for marigolds from the above reading?
- 2) What did Macer write in the 20th century?
- 3) How are marigolds used in South Asia?
- 4) The reading above uses the word “propagating.” What do you think this word means?
- 5) When should marigolds be transplanted into individual containers?
- 6) What will lead to a larger number of flowers?
- 7) What is it about marigolds that help keep bugs away?
- 8) What bug can marigolds be bothered by?