

# GrowerFacts

## French Marigold

(Tagetes patula)

### Germination

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 6.2 to 6.5 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC) of 0.75 mmhos/cm (1:2 extraction). Cover the seed with coarse vermiculite. Allow 3 to 4 days for germination.

### Plug Production

Mmarigold plugs are best produced in 200-cell plug trays.

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 6.2 to 6.5 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC) of 0.75 mmhos/cm (1:2 extraction).

#### Sowing

Cover the seed with coarse vermiculite. Allow 3 to 4 days for germination.

#### Temperature

**Germination:** 70 to 72°F (21 to 22°C)

**Cotyledon stage:** 65 to 72°F (18 to 22°C)

**True leaves:** 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

**Hold plugs:** 65 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

#### Light

**Stage 1:** Light is not required for germination

**After germination:** 1,000 to 2,500 f.c. (10,000 to 25,000 Lux)

**Seedling maturity:** Up to 3,000 f.c. (30,000 Lux)

#### Humidity

Maintain 95% relative humidity (RH) until cotyledons emerge.

#### Soil Moisture

Keep soil moisture high until radicle emergence, then reduce moisture levels after the radicle penetrates the medium. Do not allow seedlings to wilt.

#### Fertilizer

**Stage 2:** Apply 50 to 75 ppm N, maintaining an EC of 1.0.

**Stage 4:** Apply 100 to 150 ppm N, maintaining an EC of 1.0 to 1.5.

#### Growth Regulators

Not required.

## Growing On to Finish

#### Container Size

Mmarigolds are well-suited to cell-packs and 6-in. (15-cm) pots.

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 6.2 to 6.5 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

#### Temperature

**Nights:** 60 to 62°F (15 to 17°C)

**Days:** 65 to 68°F (18 to 20°C)

#### Light

Keep light levels from moderate to high.

#### Irrigation

Maintain even moisture. Do not allow plants to wilt.

#### Fertilizer

Feed plants weekly with 150 to 200 ppm N in a complete fertilizer. Maintain the media EC at 1.5 to 2.0 mmhos/cm and pH at 6.2 to 6.8.

#### Growth Regulators

To tone the plants for best appearance, we recommend applying B-Nine at 2,500 ppm, 1 week after transplant for cell packs or 2 weeks after transplant for 6-in. (15-cm) pots.

#### Common Problems

**Insects:** Aphids, mites, whitefly

**Diseases:** Damping off in the seedling stage

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<http://www.panamseed.com/advancedsearch.aspx?srch>

