

Calendula (Pot Marigold)

Calendula officinalis

At a Glance

- Height: 12 to 24 inches tall
- Bloom Colors: Bright orange and yellow daisy-like blooms
- Bloom Time: Spring through fall in mild climates
- Days to Maturity: 50-60 days
- Best For: Pollinator gardens, medicinal and culinary use

Growing Conditions Quick Reference

- Soil Temperature: 60-70F for best germination
- Soil Type: Well-drained, moderately rich soil
- Light Requirements: Full sun to partial shade
- Planting Depth: 1/4 inch deep
- Seeding Rate: Thin to 8-12 inches apart
- Moisture Needs: Moderate; keep evenly moist
- Average Germination Time: 7-14 days

How to Grow

- When to Plant: Direct sow after frost or start indoors 4-6 weeks early.
- Location: Full sun or partial shade in hot climates.
- Spacing: Thin seedlings to 8-12 inches apart.
- Watering: Moderate, avoid soggy soil.
- Fertilizer: Minimal; calendula thrives in average soil.

Tips for Success

- Deadhead blooms to encourage continuous flowering.
- Self-seeds easily if spent blooms are left in place.
- Tolerates cool weather and light frosts.
- Attracts pollinators and beneficial insects.

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Fun Fact

Calendula petals are edible and often used to color and flavor salads, soups, and herbal teas.

Companion Planting

Pairs well with tomatoes and asparagus, helping deter pests. Avoid planting too densely with other flowers.

Harvesting and Use

Pick fresh blooms regularly for medicinal or culinary use. Dry petals for herbal infusions or natural dye.

Quick Planting Checklist

- Direct sow after frost or start indoors
- Thin seedlings to 8-12 inches apart
- Deadhead to keep blooms coming
- Harvest petals for edible or medicinal use