

Crackerjack Marigold

Tagetes erecta 'Crackerjack'

At a Glance

- Height: 24 to 36 inches tall
- Bloom Colors: Large, double blooms in yellow, gold, and orange
- Bloom Time: Summer through frost
- Days to Maturity: 70-90 days
- Best For: Borders, pollinator gardens, pest deterrence

Growing Conditions Quick Reference

- Soil Temperature: 70-80F for best germination
- Soil Type: Well-drained, moderately fertile soil
- Light Requirements: Full sun
- Planting Depth: 1/4 inch deep
- Seeding Rate: Thin to 10-12 inches apart
- Moisture Needs: Moderate; avoid overwatering
- Average Germination Time: 7-14 days

How to Grow

- When to Plant: Direct sow after last frost or start indoors 4-6 weeks early.
- Location: Full sun with well-drained soil.
- Spacing: Thin seedlings to 10-12 inches apart.
- Watering: Moderate; allow soil to dry slightly between waterings.
- Fertilizer: Minimal; too much fertilizer reduces blooms.

Tips for Success

- Deadhead spent blooms to encourage continuous flowering.
- Tolerates heat and drought once established.
- Repels pests like nematodes in vegetable gardens.
- Great for cutting and vibrant garden color.

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Fun Fact

Crackerjack Marigolds are part of the African Marigold family, known for their tall stature and huge, frilly blooms.

Companion Planting

Pairs well with tomatoes, peppers, and beans to deter pests. Avoid planting too close to delicate herbs.

Harvesting and Use

Cut fresh blooms for arrangements or allow to dry for seed saving. Petals can also be used as a natural dye.

Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow after frost or start indoors
- Thin seedlings to 10-12 inches apart
- Deadhead for more blooms
- Avoid overfertilizing for best flowers