

Marigold

Plant type:	Tender annual
Uses:	Bedding plants, containers and window boxes
Plant height:	American & Triploid: 25 – 40cm French: 20 – 25cm
Sowing:	21-22°C. Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite. Germination 1 week. Remove seed tray cover immediately when signs of germination are seen.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Sowing to transplanting	1 - 2 weeks (as soon as the cotyledons are expanding)
Sowing to flowering	8 – 10 weeks
Ball 350 to flowering	5 weeks
Ball 230 to flowering	4 – 5 weeks

Growing on:

Temperature	17-20°C Day and 16-17°C Night
pH	6.2 - 6.5. A low pH can cause iron, manganese or sodium toxicity shown by leaf chlorosis or leaf margin burn. Do not allow pH to drop below 6.0 The variety Vanilla is particularly sensitive to low pH and will show signs of purple foliage if this occurs.
Feeding	Weekly balanced feeding. It is important not to add excessive ammonium nitrogen, which will encourage leafy growth.
Growth regulation	This is not normally necessary. However plants will respond to Daminozide.
Pack/Pot size	French: Packs and 9 – 10.5cm pots. American and Triploid: Packs and 11 – 12cm pots. Try creating a Summer Sales Booster with 3 plugs in a 3 litre pot!
Advice	Grow on a generally dry regime but bud abortion and lack of flowers can occur if the plants are too dry and stressed. Good light levels needed. Many traditional varieties of American Marigold are day length sensitive and should be sown before mid February if colour sales are required in May.
Common pests and diseases	Botrytis - Grey Mould in hot humid conditions causing lower leaf damage and also flower damage if outdoor conditions are excessively wet. Alternaria leaf spot – small reddish, purple spots on leaves. Red Spider Mite - specking and webbing on leaves in early Summer dry, warm conditions.

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.