

Common Name- African Marigolds **Scientific Name-** *Tagetes erecta*

Family- Asteraceae

Hardiness Zones/Habitat- Zones 1-10

Description:

A native to South America, the African Marigold was introduced into Europe and branched throughout northern African where the name is taken from. African Marigolds are rare with their single yellow flowers, which attract hummingbirds and butterflies. African Marigolds are annual plants that need full sun and partial shade. They typically grow one to four feet high with flowers that are two to four inches in diameter. These plants are easy to grow, and they enjoy high summer heat with light afternoon shade and will bloom throughout the entire summer. African Marigolds prefer dry or moist soil. Thomas Jefferson planted African Marigold seeds through the Winding Flower Walk on April 8, 1812. These flowers are located on the West Lawn of Monticello.

Uses:

Medicinal- Can be ingested to treat indigestion, colic, severe constipation, dysentery, and coughs; Also can be used externally to treat sores, rheumatism, eczema, sore eyes, and ulcers.

General- Used as decorative beds, edgings, and in containers; petals of the flowers of some varieties can be eaten; yellow dye from the flowers can be used for coloring and flavoring foods.



References

African Marigold. (2001, June 20). Retrieved August 1, 2019, from <https://www.monticello.org/site/house-and-gardens/in-bloom/african-marigold>

Tagetes erecta. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2019, from <http://www.missouriherbarium.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=277371>

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